

Palestine

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16 YEARS
PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

TO OUR READERS

Solidarity is an important weapon for helping the peoples of the world overcome oppression and injustice. The support and solidarity which the Palestinian people receive helps us to continue our just struggle for our just cause. We are grateful for the solidarity and support we get, but although we have many friends around the world, our enemies are still strong and formidable. They are better armed, better equipped, and much wealthier than we.

Nevertheless, though we may possess limited means, our determination and willingness to sacrifice is unlimited. The world forces of liberation, of which we are proud to be a part, are the emerging forces, and it is to us that the future belongs. The forces of oppression have had their day, and shall be consigned to the dustbin of history.

We thank all of our friends throughout the world for the letters of support and encouragement you have sent to us. Surely, we and other liberation movements will continue on the road to victory.

Palestine

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CHAIRMAN ARAFAT'S MESSAGE ON REVOLUTION'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY:

"THE YEAR OF THE PALESTINIAN OPTION"

In his annual January 1st address marking the 16th anniversary of the launching of the Palestinian Revolution, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, declared:

"We have confronted together this past year with revolutionary fervour, defying the impossible and storming the unknown, in order to shape the realities and the constants in this region. These are our own realities and constants, brought about by our Revolution which is the sole basis for all the givens in our nation and in this region. For this Revolution represents the logic of truth; it runs with the current of history; it constitutes a beacon for the succeeding generations of our nation.

"For is ours not the fiercest battle in modern Arab history...? Other battles erupt here and there around it, distracting attention from it for a time, but attention is quickly drawn back to this great struggle against all the conspiring wolves and against the ambitions of imperialism to loot the riches of this Nation and leave it completely drained of its econo-

mic and financial resources. In these plots, the Israeli military junta plays the role of guard dog and in turn makes use of such as Sadat, since the latter adopted them as masters and handed over to them the land of Egypt and the two banks of the Nile to help execute their conspiracies and manoeuvres in the entire Middle East.

"How was this handful of believers in their cause, who showed their faith in it by practice, by action, not by words, how were they able to resist the most vicious conspiracies? This was a miracle made by the masses, by their wil, their determination and their sincerity. How did this handful manage to survive despite the concentration and the extensive material and military superiority of the enemy's forces? For this enemy represents an inseparable part of the imperialist-Zionist machine which is led and manipulated by the USA, and supplied with the most advanced technology and expertise with the aim of killing our women and children and destroying our land. This handful survived because faith can work miracles. In this way, many small groups have managed to defeat much larger ones.

"Begin threatened to use means unknown to the devil himself, in the confrontation with our people and our Revolution, in order to satisfy his aggressive expansionist ambitions. General Eytan pledged that this war between Zionists and Palestinians will not end except with the destruction of one of the two sides. Eytan added: 'We will never be liquidated'. He means to offer the head of the Palestinians, like that of John the Baptist, to his new American master. In the name of the Palestinian people, and of all honest men in the Arab Nation, and the whole world, I declare that neither will we be destroyed. For this Revolution was launched to remain and to be victorious.

"We know that the plan is to get rid of the Palestinian factor in the Middle East equation amidst a flood of 'options' which they brag and boast about. They thought that they could execute the plot through a US statement followed by internal preparation in Israel, and reiteration by Sadat while waiting for another agent to crawl onto the capitulationist bandwagon. They forgot, or pretended to forget, that the Palestinian Revolution, which springs from the heart of the Arab masses and the feelings of all other people, is a factor that can never be by-passed or ignored, a factor without which the equation of the Middle East cannot work. They can of course strike here or there, and attrition and counter attrition is a rule of conflicts and confrontations. But they should remember well the nature of this Revolution which faces them, and whose militants fight for one of the most rightful contemporary causes, against the ugliest form of imperialist-Zionist colonization. They should recall the battles of Karameh, of Mount Hermon and the 'Arqoub; the battles of Galilee; the confrontations in the orchards of Gaza; and the operations in Jerusalem, Nablus, Bir Sabe' and Hebron; and the popular uprisings in the whole of Palestine. They

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CHAIRMAN ARAFAT'S MESSAGE ON REVOLUTION'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY

should remember the on-going uprisings of our people, who defy with strength and dignity the arrogance and oppression of the occupation. They should remember how our children transformed the stones of our homeland into grenades against our enemies; how our young girls were targets of their bullets; how the feet of our heroes Shak'a and Khalaf were planted in the soil of Palestine; how militants like Milhem, Qawasmeh and Tamimi continue to defy their expulsion orders; and how the detainees in the jails of the occupier resist and struggle against the tyranny of evil with the dignity of their just cause.

"Nor should they forget the eight-day war in steadfast South Lebanon, in which confrontation was fierce and constant, and in which they were the ones to ask for a cease-fire, forced to do so for the first time in the history of the Arab-Zionist conflict by our commandos. For as former Israeli Chief of Staff,

General Gur, said of our commandos in that war: "I am facing men who have taken a decision to die."

"Have General Eytan, the gangster Begin and all their leadership forgotten what happened to two of their brigades when they tried to storm Beaufort Castle, and how they were defeated by the Joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces? Have they forgotten the battles of Jarmaq, 'Aishiyeh, Rihan, Mahmoudiya, Sa'diyat, Damour, the 'Arqoub, Nabatiyeh, Tyre, Burj Rahal and 'Abbasiyeh, which were all the scenes of incredible steadfastness and confrontation despite the enemy's superior forces and the sophisticated US tools of war he used by land, sea and air against Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps? For the enemy has unfortunately been liberated from its other combat duties after the Camp David accords, and his army unfortunately can now concentrate on the Northern Front, and particularly on the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces.

"This is our people, whose roots are deeply fixed in our dear and sacred Palestinian Arab land and whose heads rise to meet the clouds.... Ours is the sacred land of the messages and prophets, from which spring the fountains of faith with which our militants are blessed, a faith unblemished with blind fanaticism

or racism, a faith which makes them accept martyrdom with strength and calm, such that it matters little to them whether they live or die, are martyred or remain to fight on.

"Our militants believe in the coexistence of man with man, of the Muslims, Christians and Jews of our people, in equality, justice and fraternity, free from fanaticism, racial discrimination, military domination, terrorism and the US war machine which seeks to control the region by any means, using the individual Jew as cannon-fodder. The Palestinian also considers Judaism as part of the noble heritage of our sacred land; whereas the Zionists declare in all arrogance that the land is theirs, and that only they have the right to it, and that only they have citizenship in it. Therein lies the difference between the two mentalities and the two sets of values and goals. It is a huge difference, distinguishing between those who follow the current of history and those who go against it. On this basis, your National Congress resolved to reach out to all the progressive and democratic Jewish forces which oppose Zionist terror and racial discrimination, which reject the occupation, and which recognize the right of our Palestinian Arab people to live in freedom and dignity in their own free and independent state."

"Over the past year, we have moved forward side by side, despite the eruptions which have shaken the region from the Gulf to the Atlantic. The United States played its part by deploying three fleets in the region, to control its outlets via the Gulf, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. It was able to establish bases on Masira Island in Oman, in Berbera in Somalia, in Mombassa in Kenya, and in Ras Baniyas in Egypt; in addition to the new base for the Rapid Deployment Force in Upper Egypt.

"In the face of the outbreak of war between Iran and Iraq, we had to act without any delay or hesitation because it is like a fire inside the home, which can be devastating. We are against this war, since it only serves the interests of world imperialism, Zionism and its agents. It must therefore be stopped, and everyone should exert all possible efforts and utilize all means and potentials to this end, forgetting any existing sensitivities here or there. It is essential to stop this war by means of courageous and responsible decisions; otherwise it will represent the beginning of the Balkanization of the region, resulting in the very divisions and splits which our enemies strive for. We should be aware that this is not a war involving Iranians and Iraqis alone, but a war that concerns us in the Palestinian Revolution, one that concerns our whole Arab Nation and all noble forces in our region. On this basis, we took immediate action through the Coordination Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement which first met in Belgrade and is continuing its efforts. We cannot claim to have reached any solutions, but we have at least succeeded in containing the fire so far, and in avoiding a spread of the fighting.... We are moreover confident that our

brothers in Iran and Iraq are aware of all these considerations.

"We were then surprised by splits in Arab ranks before the Amman Summit. We tried, together with our Algerian brothers, to avoid this situation, and we launched two invitations to save the situation. The determination to hold the Amman summit in the way it was held, however, came as a shock to us. The consequent interplay of events almost led to explosions in our very midst and nearby which were only avoided by maximum alertness. We realized that it was our duty to pursue efforts, with our brothers in Algeria and elsewhere, to restore full Arab solidarity in confronting the plots of the enemies of our Nation and the Camp David conspiracy in its old and new forms, as well as the offshoots of this conspiracy as represented in the self-rule scheme, economic colonization, more settlements and land seizures, looting of water resources, expulsion, and murder of leaders; and other ways of forcing our people to flee.

"In these circumstances, my brothers, the responsibilities which the Palestinian Revolution has to shoulder increase, for we are an inseparable part of this Arab Nation, afflicted by what harms it, and growing stronger by what strengthens it. A unified Arab stand towards the unity of the central goal of our Arab Nation, towards Palestine, represents the firm foundation which carries our Revolution, side by side with the strong pillar formed by our masses, fighters and militants.

"These responsibilities befall us because of the position of the Palestinian Revolution in the struggle and because of its growing status. It has proved that its strength resides in our people, in all our revolutionaries and in the numerous brothers and friends who help us exploit all these potentials in order to bring about the strategic changes necessary for the victory of our Palestinian Revolution with its Arab dimension and its international extensions.

"It is no coincidence that the past year should have witnessed six debates on the Palestine question and related problems at the Security Council; an extraordinary emergency session of the UN General Assembly; a UNESCO meeting including the Palestinian speech; UN resolutions and the recognition by 117 states of our rights and of the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people. This in addition to the meeting of peace committees in Bulgaria; and the first Ho Chi Minh prize for the Palestine Revolution and its revolutionaries. The list of our supporters is long, from Nicaragua to India, the socialist states, the Non-Aligned group, the African and Islamic states, and the Jerusalem Committee. Last but not least, there comes the role of Europe and its political communique. Was it an isolated statement, or does it have significant repercussions? We should assess it meticulously and keep it in the correct perspective considering particularly the world balance of forces. Can Europe, and



Thousands demonstrate in Beirut on January 1 anniversary



particularly the EEC, separate itself from the US Administration and American decisions, as alluded to in cautionary statements by Muskie and other US officials?

"Our strong unity is the shield protecting our people and rights: the unity of our people inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora, our people in all its sectors which destroyed all conspiracies and suspect projects such as the Camp David Accords, the self-rule scheme, which mean just another form of

slavery for our people. The unity of our people in all its armed organizations and popular unions represents the essence of life for the coming generations, a life of pride and dignity, of freedom from all forms of protectorates and subjugation over our national soil. This unity was consolidated by the democracy of the people in arms which characterizes Fateh, and which we strive to safeguard in method and practice since it represents a vanguard revolutionary experience. We have built this unity on solid foundations of correct understanding and meticulous differentiation between true democracy and the exploitation of the slogan of democracy with the aim of distorting certain of its characteristics. Certain individuals, however, try to by-pass and exploit it to realize narrow gains at the expense of our people and their great accomplishments. Our Revolution has always believed in the saying that slaves will not fight for their masters; however, at the same time, we stress the importance of avoiding anarchy masquerading under this sacred slogan. Let a thousand flowers bloom, but let them bloom within the garden of the Revolution, not outside it, or in the interest of those forces vainly trying to impose their domination on it. All the revolutionaries and militants and all our people will safeguard this revolutionary democracy because it gives a correct image for the future, for our democratic state founded on these concepts and principles.



Chairman Arafat salutes Palestinian fighters

"While bidding farewell to the 16th year of our great Revolution let us now advance together through this 17th year, carrying our flag high and making this the longest revolution against imperialism, Zionism, racism and neo-fascism, against oppression and injustices, in modern Arab history. Here I must stress the importance of these guns you carry in your hands, for they are the true gage of civilized values and what they embody in terms of defense of our people's rights, heritage and history.

"This revolutionary fervour is not limited to our people. It has wide Arab dimensions; it interacts with the Arab liberation movement, and liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, giving them fresh inspiration and creating new impetus. This revolutionary creativity is born of the people, who guide its way. This was clearly reflected in the call for general mobilization which has shaken our enemies. The masses of our people have rallied to this call, rushing to their positions and to martyrdom, donating their lives to their people and nation, providing a measure of their constancy, and their steadfast attachment to their inalienable national rights. For the Palestinian reality — the people, homeland, and rights — is a fearful spectre for the expansionist-colonialist enemy, a nightmare to the aggressor and occupier, his allies, his military machine, but also a constant weight on the world's conscience.

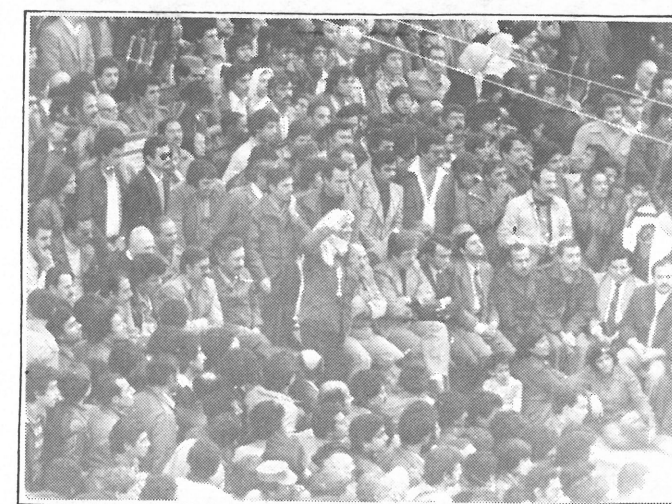
"The fact that Reagan has attacked the Palestinian

16 YEARS OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

On January 1, 1981 the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO celebrated the Revolution's 16th anniversary. On this occasion rallies, seminars, art exhibitions and celebrations were held in various Palestinian communities in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, Syria and friendly countries. Scores of delegations from abroad arrived in Beirut to participate in the celebrations.

A military parade was held in the Beirut Arab University. Present at the parade were PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat, members of the Fateh Central Committee, and PLO Executive Committee; Secretary-Generals of various factions of the Resistance; Lebanese National Movement representatives; Commander of the Lebanese Arab Army, ambassadors and representatives of socialist states; and guest delegations and representatives of many progressive and democratic parties, organizations and forces in the world. More than 50,000 Lebanese and Palestinians participated in this parade with hundreds

Revolution in the first statement he made after his electoral victory proves its greatness, whether he wants to admit it or not. For Reagan placed us among the foremost problems facing the new US administration, together with SALT II, the efforts to restore US influence around the world and the global confrontations in which the US is involved. But let all know that whatever statements Reagan makes after his election and after the electoral campaign, and whether Peres or Begin is elected to head the Israeli military junta, there still can be no settlement, no stability, no peace and no security if the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are ignored: foremost among them, the rights to return, to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state over Palestinian national soil. The Palestinian option is the sole option leading to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Only it has been confirmed by international legitimacy. We enter this 17th year, armed with faith in our cause, defying the arrogance of the enemy and the US war machine. We have remained steadfast together and made the Revolution together since our people were transformed from a people of refugees to revolutionaries. Now, in this coming year, we assault the new impossible and face new challenges on the road towards our national goals, towards Palestine and Jerusalem. In this 17th year, our only option is Palestinian and there is no other option. This will be the year of the Palestinian option, the year of the Palestinian miracle, performed by the Revolution and the people."



Chairman Arafat, Palestinian and Lebanese leaders and many guests, reviewing the parade

of thousands of onlookers. Other similar parades and celebrations were held in various Lebanese towns and villages, as well as in all Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The parade began at 11:00am, headed by groups of the Ashbal, Zahrat, Scouts and Guides, Karate groups, and by the Palestinian Red Crescent units carrying the Palestinian flag and the Revolutionary torch. Also marching in the parade were units of Palestinian veterans, students, general mobilization forces, forces of the Lebanese Murabitoun, the

16 YEARS OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION



Lebanese Arab Army, Lebanese popular committees, and the Popular League for the Defense of South Lebanon. Units of the various Palestinian factions then marched with Palestine Liberation Army units, special units of the task force "17" and the Assifa forces.

At the end of the parade, Yasser Arafat delivered a speech in which he stressed that the Arab masses' awareness has checked the Camp David conspiracy and the autonomy plan, giving as example the Syrian fighter planes which engaged in a dog fight with the Israelis on New Year's Eve, as well as the struggle of Palestinians living under occupation. "The Palestinians in the occupied territories have turned the stones of my country into time-bombs which explode in the face of Carter, Reagan and their agent Sadat," he said.

In response to US president-elect Reagan's statements against the PLO, Arafat said that the PLO's will was of the Arab and Palestinian masses, stressing

that the Palestinian Revolution cannot be intimidated. Arafat made it clear that general Palestinian mobilization was declared to face the US military escalation in the region. He said that the region's interest lies in working out a just and permanent solution to the region's problems, which can be achieved only through the Palestinian option which embodies the will of the Palestinian people.

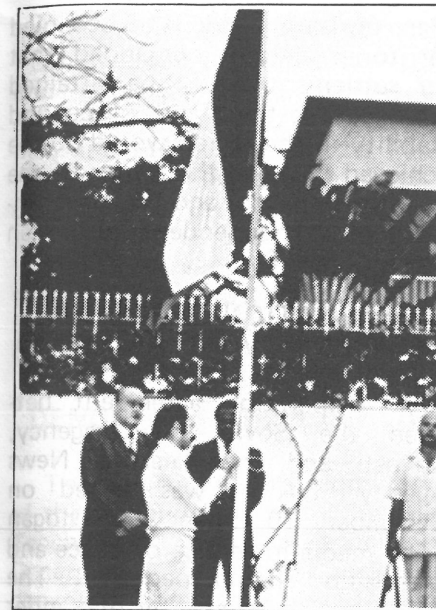
Chairman Arafat received delegations as well as hundreds of cables congratulating him on the occasion and expressing support for and solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

Among those who sent cables were:
Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev
President of the State Council of the People's Republic of China
President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
President of the Democratic Republic of Korea
President of Mongolia
President of Malta
President Erich Honecker, Secretary General of the Socialist Unity Party of GDR
Cuban President Fidel Castro
President Ali Nasser Muhammad, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party
National Leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party of Iraq
Tunisian Foreign Minister
AKEL Secretary-General — Cyprus
President of the Cypriot Committee for Solidarity with Arab peoples
The Vietnamese Federation of Unions
The Jordanian Communist Party Organization in Lebanon
Lebanese Communist Party
International Federation of Arab Workers Unions
The Middle East Club — Beirut
The Bethlehem Club
Leftist Democratic Kurdish Party Organization
Palestinian personalities — Aden
Palestinian personalities — Amman
Palestinian Detainees in Ramleh prison
The Workers Unions Federation in the Gaza strip
General Union of Palestinian Workers (G.U.P.W.)
General Union of Palestinian Students (G.U.P.S.)
General Union of Palestinian Teachers (G.U.P.T.)
SAMED
Popular Committees of Palestinian camps in Lebanon

Among the delegations which participated in the revolutionary celebrations were:

a delegation representing Palestinian community in Brazil,
a delegation representing Palestinian community in the U.S.A.,
a delegation of U.S. university professors of Spanish origin,
an official Tunisian delegation,
an official delegation from Laos.

PALESTINE NOTES



Palestinian Embassy opening in Luanda

PALESTINE SOLIDARITY DAY: ANGOLA RAISES PLO OFFICE TO EMBASSY STATUS

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with Palestine, the Palestinian Embassy in Luanda was officially inaugurated in the presence of the Angolan deputy minister for foreign relations, Venâncio de Moura. The ceremony was attended by several Angolan Party leaders and government officials as well as officials from embassies of friendly and brother countries present in Luanda. After raising the flag of Palestine Comrade Venâncio de Moura representing the Angolan Party and Government delivered a speech in which he officially announced the decision of the Party and Government of the People's Republic of Angola to raise the status of the PLO Representation to the level of an embassy. He also called on all friendly countries to follow the example of Angola by extending full diplomatic status to the respective PLO representations.

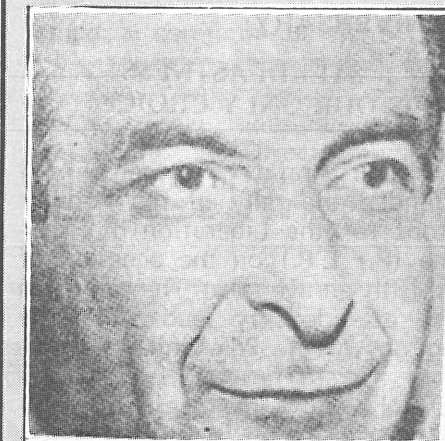
He hailed the victories gained by

the PLO and the unconditional solidarity of the People's Republic of Angola with the people of Palestine and their vanguard, the PLO, led by Yasser Arafat. In response to the speech delivered by Comrade Venâncio de Moura, the PLO representative to Angola, Abu Fahd, congratulated the Party and Government of the People's Republic of Angola and the Angolan Head of State and reaffirmed the solidarity of the Palestinian Revolution

with the People's Republic of Angola.

PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

At the close of their 12th joint conference on December 12 the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies accepted the Palestinian Crescent



Dr. Fayez Sayegh

PLO MOURNS DR. FAYEZ SAYEGH

The PLO on December 11 announced the death of Dr. Fayez Sayegh, a prominent Palestinian figure and member of the Palestinian National Congress. Dr. Sayegh died in a New York hospital following a heart attack. Dr. Sayegh spent all his life defending the cause of the Arab nation and the cause of his people to liberate their country, Palestine.

Dr. Sayegh was born in 1922 in Jabal al-Arab in Syria. He graduated from the American University in Beirut, and Georgetown University in the U.S.A. He took up teaching at the Universities of Stanford, and Minnesota in the U.S.A., at Oxford in Britain and at the American

University in Beirut. He was director of the Arab League Office in the U.S.A. and in 1967 became advisor to the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs department in New York. Dr. Sayegh wrote several books on the Palestine cause, the Arab world, the Non-Aligned movement, and the United Nations.

Yasser Arafat on December 11 sent cables of condolence to Dr. Youssef Sayegh and Dr. Anis Sayegh on the death of their brother Dr. Fayez Sayegh. He wrote: "Our Revolution and also our younger generation has lost a devoted teacher who taught them patriotism and commitment to the revolution and the goals of our Arab Nation: unity, freedom and progress. What consoles us, is the fact that he left behind a rich heritage of scientific research on the just cause of the Palestinian people."

On December 16, huge crowds of Palestinians and adherents to the Lebanese National Movement attended the funeral of Dr. Fayez Sayegh in Beirut. Numerous messages of condolence, among others from Syrian Prime Minister Dr. Abd al-Ra'ouf al-Kasim and Secretary General of the Arab League, al-Chadli al-Klibi, have reached Chairman Arafat.

PALESTINE NOTES

Society as a full member. The conference opened in Khartoum on December 8 and elected al-Mahdi Bithouna of Morocco as the Federation's Secretary-General. The next conference will be held in Bahrain.

ABU JIHAD INSPECTS JOINT FORCES POSITIONS

Abu Jihad, member of the Fateh Central Committee and of the General Command of the Assifa Forces, on December 12 inspected the forward positions of the Joint Forces and met with the officers and militants who confronted the Israeli forces in their latest raid on south Lebanon. Abu Jihad paid tribute to the fighters and their resistance to the Israeli invaders. He said that similar Israeli operations were to be expected in the future, but stressed that the Joint Forces had shown themselves well equipped to confront the enemy at any time and any place.

PALESTINE PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL BOOK EXHIBITION IN MALI

Palestine is participating in the international book exhibition which opened in Mali on December 15. The two-week exhibition, the second of its kind, was opened in the Mali capital Bamako and includes delegations from Africa, Europe, America and the Arab world. Mali officials confirmed their government and people's full support for the PLO during their visit of the Palestine book section.

ARAFAT RECEIVES SENEGALESE DELEGATION, INVITATION TO DAKAR

Yasser Arafat on December 14 received a Senegalese delegation

headed by Shaykh Sirine Anabaki. Discussions centered on the latest developments in the Arab region and Africa and the continued Israeli aggression against south Lebanon. During the meeting, Arafat received an official invitation to visit the Senegalese capital Dakar. The Senegalese delegation toured a number of Lebanese villages and Palestinian camps in South Lebanon, witnessing the damage left by Israeli attacks.

ARAFAT AT PFLP ANNIVERSARY:

"STEADFASTNESS IS OUR ONLY CHOICE"

Yasser Arafat on December 14 attended the rally of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (P.F.L.P.) on the occasion of its 13th anniversary. The rally was also attended by leaders of the factions of the Palestinian Revolution, representatives of the Lebanese National Movement, the Lebanese Arab Army, the Amal movement and delegations from friendly liberation movements and states.

During the rally Arafat delivered a speech in which he confirmed the alliance between the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. He said that Palestinians were fighting to defend the dignity of the Arab Nation, and to prevent the establishment of another Israel in the Arab world. Arafat added that the Palestinian Revolution would continue its resistance, and warned Carter and Reagan that the U.S. navy can not diminish the determination of the Palestinian people. "Our only choice is to remain steadfast," Arafat declared. He described the current dangerous situation and said that attempts to Balkanize the Middle East and to divide it geographically and along sectarian lines had failed because of the Palesti-

nian uprising inside the occupied territories. Arafat concluded that no settlement could be attained outside Palestine, and peace and stability in the region would not be achieved without the return of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN NOVOSTI AND Wafa

A cooperation agreement between the Soviet news agency, Novosti and the Palestine News Agency, Wafa, was signed on December 19 under the slogan "The media in service of peace and friendship among peoples". The agreement was signed by Alexander Krasnov, the Editor in Chief of the Middle East and Africa Section of Novosti, and Fahmi Hussein, the Editor in chief of Wafa. The agreement included articles about cooperation in the media field and expressed the ambition for the development of cooperation between the two agencies on the basis of the cooperation between the PLO and the Soviet Union. During his visit to the PLO Comrade Krasnov visited the informational, social and economic institutions of the Palestinian Revolution and also the positions of the Joint Forces in South Lebanon.

PLO REPRESENTATIVE MEETS CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

The chairman of the West Asian and North African department in the Chinese Foreign Ministry met on December 24 with the PLO representative in Beijing. During the meeting the Chinese official confirmed the People's Republic's support of the Palestinian people's struggle to realise their inalienable rights and establish an independent state under the leadership of the PLO. The official stressed the need for developing relations and increas-

ing talks between China and the PLO in order to expose the racist and expansionist nature of the Zionist entity, and the aggressive measures taken against the Palestinians under occupation. Such a development in PLO-Chinese relations would widen the circle of international support for the Palestinian people's just struggle, while further isolating Israel, the official said.

PALESTINIAN TEACHERS DENOUNCE UNRWA THREATS

The Fourth regional conference of the General Union of Palestinian Teachers - Lebanon branch on December 27 denounced the constant threats issued by the Director-General of UNRWA's educational services. The latter had recently declared that all pre-



Laotian delegation guests of honour at January 1 celebrations

paratory schools in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan will have to close down as of March 1981 due to deficits faced by UNRWA. The conference issued a communique denouncing these repeated threats and called for the confrontation of such methods. The communique added that it was the Director General's responsibility to make up for the deficit, and not the Palestinian people's.

LAOTIAN WOMEN'S DELEGATION VISITS GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN

A delegation of the Women's Union from the People's Republic of Laos on December 28 visited Palestinian Camps and Lebanese villages in South Lebanon to witness life in those areas subject to constant Israeli-isolationist shelling. The delegation, headed by the



UN RESOLUTIONS IN FAVOUR OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

The UN General Assembly on December 15 adopted by a large majority five resolutions endorsing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, condemning both the Israeli policy in the occupied territories and the Camp David accords, and calling upon Israel to withdraw completely from the occupied territories.

The first resolution, which obtained 98 votes

for and 16 against, with 32 abstentions, confirmed the Palestinian rights to self-determination, statehood and sovereignty and appealed for PLO participation on an equal basis with other concerned parties in all negotiations and conferences concerning the Palestine question and the Middle East conflict. It also called for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

The second resolution was adopted by 86 votes to 22, with 40 abstentions. It rejected all partial and separate agreements, considering them null and void because they violate the UN charter, international law, and Palestinian rights.

The third and fourth resolutions dealt with the cooperation and coordination of UN committees and organizations concerned with the Palestine question. Both were adopted by 120 votes each.

The fifth resolution opposed Israel's law legalizing the annexation of Jerusalem since it violates international law. This last resolution was adopted by 143 votes, with Israel casting the only vote against it.

PALESTINE NOTES

deputy president of the Laotian Women's Union, arrived on Saturday December 27, on the invitation of the General Union of Palestinian Women. Upon their arrival a meeting between representatives of the two unions took place in which the latest developments of the Palestinian cause, including the struggle of the Palestinian woman, both in and outside the occupied territories, were discussed. The delegation also visited the Damour area and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Martyrs Cemetery, Beirut.

PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS DELEGATION HOLDS MEETINGS IN VIETNAM

The Palestinian delegation of the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, which is currently visiting Vietnam upon a joint invitation from the Vietnamese Journalists and Writers Union, held a series of meetings with Vietnamese unions and representatives of cultural institutions on December 28. In the evening, the Vietnamese Minister of Culture gave a reception in honour

of the visiting delegation, made up by Naji al-Ali and Khaled Abu Khaled, as well as Abu Ziyad, the PLO representative in Vietnam.

O.A.U. CONFIRMS FULL SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

The Organisation of African Unity has reaffirmed its conviction that no just and lasting peace can be achieved in the Middle East without the realisation of Palestinian rights, under the leadership of the PLO. The statement came in a communique issued on December 30 following the visit by Muhammad Abu al-Layl, former Secretary-General of the General Union of Palestinian Workers to Accra where he met with OAU officials. The OAU communique further condemned the conspiracies against the

Palestinian people and denounced Israeli policies, such as the annexation of Jerusalem and the establishment of settlements.

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT MEETS WITH BASSAM SHAKA'A IN DAMASCUS

The PLO Executive Committee on December 30 held a reception in Damascus in honour of Nabul Mayor Bassam al-Shaka'a. Yasser Arafat, Khaled al-Fahoum, President of the Palestinian National Congress, members of the PLO Executive Committee, a large number of cadres of the Palestinian Revolution, members of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party and the National Front in Syria attended the reception. Chairman Arafat warmly welcomed

Shaka'a, saying that the medal presented to him by Syrian President Hafez al-Asad was a medal for the Palestinian and Arab militant people.

Arafat thanked President Assad for this gesture, which reaffirmed the revolutionary ties between the Palestinian Revolution and Syria and the fact that both stand in the same trench against world imperialism, Zionism and their puppet Sadat. Arafat then referred to the situation on the northern front and the daily Israeli aggressions, confirming that the Zionist enemy's

attempts to split the unity between the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement would remain unsuccessful. Arafat concluded by affirming the inevitability of Palestinian victory.

Mayor Shaka'a delivered a speech thanking President Assad for the medal, which he described as a gesture honouring all the militant Palestinian people in their daily struggle, led by the PLO. Shaka'a added that the struggle in the occupied territories went alongside the Lebanese struggle against the common enemy, Israel, which poses a threat not only to the Arab Nation, but to the whole world. He confirmed that the meeting in Syria was an expression of the determination to confront the challenges faces by the Arab Nation.



President Brezhnev leads funeral procession for Alexei Kosygin

PLO SENDS CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF ALEXEI KOSYGIN

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, sent a cable of condolence on December 23 to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on the death of former Premier Alexei Kosygin. He paid tribute to Kosygin, saying that the world had lost "a great militant who had devoted his life to serving his nation and furthering just causes and world peace".

Alexei Kosygin, who retired as Soviet Prime Minister in October 1980 after 16 years in office, died in Moscow on December 18. He was

76. Kosygin had been in poor health for over a year after suffering a heart attack in October 1979. But he stayed on as Prime Minister until last October when he officially retired after suffering a relapse. Kosygin held three orders of Lenin and was also awarded the title of "Hero of Socialist Labor" on his sixtieth birthday in 1964.

During the Second World War, Kosygin played an important part in organizing the evacuation of much of the country's industry to the east, out of the path of the invading German armies. He also supervised the evacuation of the population from Leningrad and worked at adapting Soviet industry to defense needs. In 1943-46 he was the Prime Minister of the Russian Federal Republic in the Soviet Union. Until his appointment as Premier in 1964, he held senior government posts, including in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Light Industry and Textiles. With his appointment as Prime Minister, Kosygin became a well-known figure all over the world.

Kosygin also became a protagonist of easing international tension and of the policy of detente. He played a major role in settling the Indian-Pakistani conflict. Apart from many trips to Asia, Europe and Africa, Alexei Kosygin in 1967 paid a visit to the U.S. in order to seek ways to solve the Vietnam and Middle East conflicts. Throughout all his political life Kosygin firmly upheld Soviet support for national liberation movements all over the world.



Chairman Arafat and Farouk Kaddoumi meet with GDR President Erich Honecker

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT MEETS WITH PRESIDENT HONECKER

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and General Commander of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution, on December 29, held a long meeting with Erich Honecker, Secretary-General of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and President of the GDR State Council. Honecker discussed with Arafat the deterioration of the international situation due to imperialist aggression. He confirmed the policy of peace adopted by the GDR; and its determination to participate fully alongside the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, in the pursuit of detente, the ending of the arms race, and the development of international cooperation.

Regarding the Middle East Honecker reiterated his country's support for the Palestine cause, confirming that no just and lasting peace could be achieved without the realisation of the rights

of the Palestinian people and the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and Arab occupied territories. He added that the Palestine cause remained the core of the M.E conflict, and that the PLO should be recognized by all those that have until now refused to do so. Arafat thanked Honecker for inviting him to the GDR. He agreed with Honecker, and particularly with his views on the international situation.

Both sides condemned the policies of aggression adopted by US imperialism against the Middle and Near East regions. Both sides stressed that such policies only encouraged Israel to further its aggression in the occupied territories and the Arab Nation as a whole, especially in South Lebanon. Both sides confirmed their support for the Palestinian people's struggle inside the occupied territories. Arafat reaffirmed that neither imperialism and Zionism, nor their agents have succeeded in strangling the Palestinian people's just struggle for liberation, and the regaining of their national rights, in accordance with the UN resolutions concerning Palestine. Both sides approved of the resolutions on Palestine Jerusalem and the Middle East, adopted by the UN General Assembly during the 35th session. Both sides finally expressed their faith in the PLO and its ties with democratic and progressive forces in the world.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO Executive Committee and Abdel Muhsin Abu Maizar, member of the PLO Executive Committee. On the German side, Comrades Herman Axen and Gerhard Gruneberg, both members of the Party's politburo, were present.

"WE NEED A MORE SOLID UNITY AMONG THE ARABS"

Q: There is a lot of talk about a "European initiative" in the Middle East. If there is in fact such an "initiative", how far can it go? Can the Europeans act independently of the U.S.?

"There is some talk about the European Community and its endeavor to take some action with regard to the solution of the Middle East crisis. I don't think that this is an "initiative". The European countries have never as yet presented any "initiative". But they say that they are doing their best to maintain peace in this part of the world and to enhance international efforts for a just solution to the Middle East crisis. Therefore, they are exploring the possibility of finding a solution and they are waiting for the new American administration to take over and assume its responsibility in an official way. They did not present a full-fledged initiative, but they are exploring the possibilities and finding a general and common base for a solution. They are trying to interpret the minimum self-determination due to all parties in the conflict. What does security mean to those parties in the conflict and then to explore the possibilities of finding a compromise to the problem of Jerusalem after the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem."

Q: Are the Europeans acting out of economic or humanitarian motives?

"In international politics interests dominate humanitarian elements. I don't think that they will move independently of their U.S. allies."

Q: Do you expect any change coming from the new American administration?

"I don't expect any genuine change in the attitude of the American administration during the reign of Reagan. The American policy is based on certain postulations which cannot be changed. They might have a little change in tactics. The first priority in the American administration's policy is the security of Israel."



Q: Can we expect any difference between the European stand and that of the Americans?

"Certain differences might arise. There are differences among the European Community members themselves. France is more advanced. In European attitudes, Spain has a more advanced stand than any other country in Europe. The U.S. administration is exerting some pressure on the Europeans to retreat — to even lay off. You know that the Europeans and Americans are allies and their first policy priority is NATO and maintaining the security of Europe."

Q: Would a European "initiative" be complementary to the Camp David accords?

"It is not of necessity that it should be complementary to the Camp David agreements. Reagan should find another way to serve the interests of America because the Camp David agreement is becoming a failure."

Q: We know that the Republican Party in the U.S. depends on business and monopolies. Some people claim this would affect American policy in favour of the Arabs.

"Do you mean to say that the economic potential, private enterprise and the businessmen have good relations with some of the Arab oil-producing countries and that is the reason why they might be affected by the Arabs and would pressure the American administration in order to change its attitude and to have a developing attitude regarding the question of Palestine? I don't think so because

we have had such an experience with the U.S. and the U.S. still continues its current policy of supporting Israel and backing its aggressiveness and its expansionist policy. However, to be more objective, we should wait and see what would be the change in the American administration's policy. But I am sure that there will be no change because the Arab oil-producing countries are incapable of pressuring the U.S. administration and it seems that they are in need of protection from the U.S. and not vice versa."

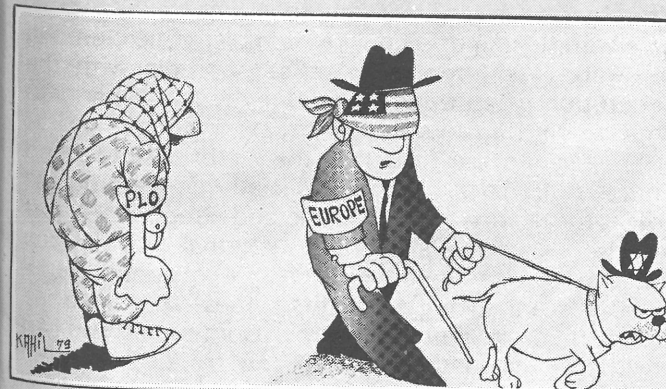
Q: What can affect the Americans then?

"I think that we have to continue our armed struggle. The Arabs should show the U.S. that their interests will be exposed to danger if they don't change their attitude in respect to the question of Palestine."

Q: The Israeli Labor Party has recently adopted what is termed as the "Jordanian option" in which the Jordanian monarch could represent the Palestinian people instead of the PLO. And as we know, this proposal received the approval of the American administration. What can be expected in the event that the Labor Party wins office?

"There is some talk about the 'Jordanian option'. The Reagan administration and some of his advisors say that the "Jordanian option" might be the solution to the question of Palestine. They refer to the election of Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, and that he might be elected as prime minister in the coming elections in Israel."

"First of all, we reject the "Jordanian option" and the Arabs are also not with the "Jordanian option". But the Israelis are speculating in favor of any change in the Israeli government. I think this is a new tactic to serve the interests of Israel. Therefore, whether Peres is prime minister or Begin, they have different tactics, but the policy of Begin is more clear and evident to us. That is the reason why the Labor Party is trying by one way or another to cover up these real objectives by certain tactics in which they may pretend to be maintaining peace in this part of the world."



Q: What would be the role of King Hussein?

"They are trying to drag King Hussein into this game. But I don't think that they will withdraw from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. They are fishing for more concessions from the Arabs. They are trying to find ways and means to aggravate the split among the Arabs."

Q: The Labor Party has declared that if King Hussein is not ready to cooperate with them, they will look for Palestinians from the occupied territories to talk with them.

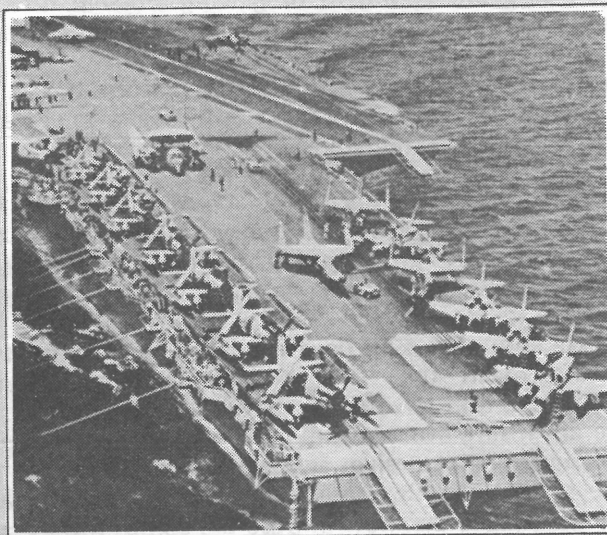
We should not be deceived by such statements. It would mean that the Israelis and the American administration have the initiative in their hands, as if we are losing every initiative. This is not true. We are strong enough to reject any plan. I reject the idea that the Israelis and the Americans now have the initiative and that they can now impose the solution they want on the Arabs."

Q: Now let's talk a little about the Socialist International. The Socialist International in its November conference in Madrid called on "Israel's neighbors" to follow "Sadat's initiative". It failed to mention the PLO. Don't you think that there was a retreat on behalf of Kreisky and the other Socialist International leaders?

"In fact, the international socialists in their last conference were not giving the right answer to the crisis in the Middle East. They are changing their attitude and position in respect to the PLO and the creation of an independent state and that's the reason why we criticized the final statement issued by that conference. There might be some retreat from the old position. That's the reason why we have not only criticized, but we have also contacted the parties concerned who are considered friends of the PLO in order to change this attitude or to give us an acceptable explanation of their latest attitude. However, it is necessary for international socialism to review and reconsider its last stand because the PLO cannot accept this while it is said for instance that Kreisky is a friend of the PLO and he is trying to serve the cause of the Palestinian people and maintain good relations with the PLO and has announced in the past that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people and that the Palestinians should have their own independent Palestinian state. However, I think that there were certain differences among the members of the Socialist International and they did not agree on the general statement to be issued."

"They alleged that there was a certain political program issued during the Fatah conference although we have denied the existence of such a program and it was not issued by Fatah. There were certain proposals

"WE NEED A MORE SOLID
UNITY AMONG THE ARABS"



"We have... to prevent any build-up of
the American forces."

made during the conference. However, we have our political program and that's the reason they have taken this as a justification for any change in their attitude."

Q: What about the American build-up in the region?

"You see that our region is passing through a very serious series of events as a result of these conflicts whether it's the Iraqi-Iranian conflict or other conflicts. This is used as a justification for the Americans to interfere and to bring their Rapid Deployment Forces to the area and to pressure the Gulf countries with the justification that they are coming to protect their interests and then to come into the Gulf area and build new bases. It is necessary to say that we have to fight against these bases. We have our allies and we have to cooperate with our allies and friends to prevent any build-up of the American imperialist forces in the Middle East and in the Gulf area in particular."

Q: Which countries are still adopting a hostile attitude to the PLO?

"I think that the U.S. is the main country which adopts this hostile attitude in respect to the PLO and the establishment of an independent state in Palestine."

Q: What about the escalation of Israeli military aggression against southern Lebanon?

"The escalation of the military aggression against southern Lebanon would continue because this is the continuous policy of the Israeli authorities to undermine any national detente, in Lebanon to cause a complete failure for the mission of the UN forces,

to provoke the Syrian forces, and then to keep the Palestinian forces involved — to keep them always engaged and in a defensive position and not in an offensive position. Therefore, we should continue the escalation of our armed struggle inside the occupied territories as well as the political struggle."

Q: Can the United Nations affect the situation in the Middle East?

"The UN can affect the serious situation in the Middle East because the UN can pressure the parties to the conflicts and pressure and isolate especially the Israeli and the U.S. administration.

"In fact, the UN can't impose its will directly, only indirectly through propagating the idea that the Israelis are aggressors, expansionists and are hampering all efforts in the search for peace in the Middle East. The Israelis are determined not to maintain peace in the Middle East. They are threatening the security of the world in general. It is necessary for the Security Council and the UN to take action by imposing sanctions against Israel and to isolate the U.S."

Q: Is the UN able to impose such sanctions?

"The UN is able to impose such things. It has to be approved by the members of the UN, collectively or individually. If a veto is standing as the detrimental factor in the face of the UN to take such an action, I think that the UN members are eligible to go ahead and initiate their own action by imposing these sanctions against Israel.

"The UN has not acted yet — not because they don't want to impose such sanctions, but because a veto is used in the hands of the Americans to cause any resolution taken up by the Security Council to fail. And the Security Council is the coordinating body designated to take such an action."

Q: What can be expected in the near future?

"We expect many things. We are building up our movement. We are advancing. We might face some difficulties as a result of this split among the Arabs, but we are trying to reconcile such differences among the Arabs. We hope that we can be able with the cooperation of all our brothers in the Arab world to come up with a more solid unity among the Arabs. It is necessary to see to it that the Arabs should stand and speak in one language especially concerning the cause of Palestine and to back and support the just struggle of the Palestinians whether inside the occupied territories or outside the occupied territories. We are facing such difficulties, but we hope that during the coming Islamic Conference we can solve some of these problems and try to overcome these difficulties in the nearest future."

TAKEN IN TOW BY THE U.S.:

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE EUROPEAN "MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE?"

For six months the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine problem had been listed as the main agenda item for the EEC summit starting in Luxembourg on December 1. But when the leaders of the Nine emerged from their busy two-day session, their hands were empty. After months of flaunting the imminent take-off of a decisive European Middle East peace initiative, the European leaders finally preferred to lay low and memorize the resolutions taken earlier, in particular at the Venice Summit of June 13, 1980. "New" in a final communique of utmost evasiveness was only that the EEC governments expressed their determination "to pursue contacts with all parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict in an effort to find terms of a possible solution".

"There is little doubt that the much-vaunted European initiative on the Middle East has marked

time," the British *Guardian* observed already on October 31 and recalled that the EEC governments during recent months had created the "clear impression of a significant new policy declaration at the summit" able to break the deadlock over Palestine created by the Camp David accords and talks on "Palestinian autonomy." The paper concluded that no significant move was, if at all, "to be expected until well into next year," and quoted an EEC official saying: "The name of the game is now to find some excuse for continuing to talk and talk and talk..."

One should remember that the fuss about the "European Middle East initiative" came into fashion at the time when another much-vaunted and flaunted initiative reached its obvious deadlock. On May 26, 1980, the deadline for the negotiations on "Palestinian autonomy" envisioned in the U.S.-Israeli-Sadat Camp David deal passed without anything being achieved. The flood of solemn declarations and holy oaths sung by Sadat and his partners giving the lie that they would bring about a "comprehensive peace" and a just solution for the Palestinian people, turned sour. Instead, Israel stepped up its aggression against the PLO and Lebanon and its terror in the occupied territories, with locally elected leaders and mayors there being detained, put under house arrest, expelled and even physically liquidated.

This was the time for the Western European governments to step in. On June 1, following his talks in the White House and U.S. State Department, the French foreign minister François Poncet announced in Washington that the Europeans would launch a "Middle East initiative... in the next weeks." The same day the British foreign minister Lord Carrington seconded from London that if the deadlock of Camp



Schmidt-Giscard tête-à-tête at December EEC summit;

U.S. Secretary of State Muskie's
comment on "European initiative"

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE EUROPEAN "MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE?"

David and especially the Palestine question was not overcome "a new oil embargo or an outbreak of hostilities could erupt."

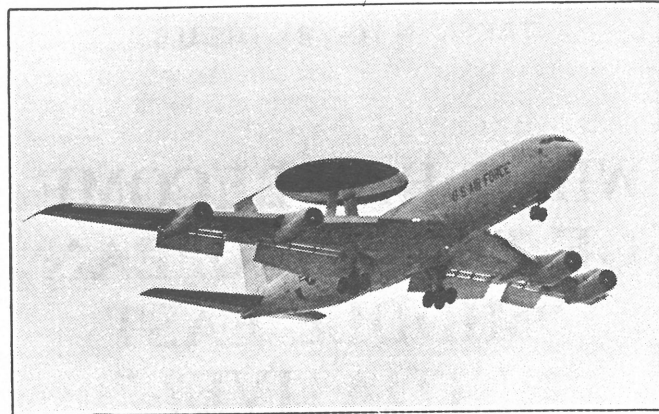
The following period was full of speculations about the form the new initiative would take. A clear-cut recognition of the PLO was hinted at. So was a draft resolution for the Security Council to be brought up by the European Community in order to amend resolution 242, spelling out the Palestinian people's national rights and even fixing a timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, or economic and security guarantees provided by the "neutral" Europeans for an Arab/Palestinian-Israeli comprehensive settlement.

At their Venice Summit in June, after intensive U.S. and Zionist meddling, the EEC leaders did not go beyond a general statement. They repeated statements made earlier by individual Western European leaders calling for Palestinian self-determination. For the first time they directly referred to the PLO which they recognized "will have to be associated with the negotiations." But they fell short of introducing any real new element. In particular they failed to spell out the urgent need for the fulfillment of the rights of the Palestinian people for return to their homeland and an independent state.

Besides, the West European leaders commissioned the President of the EEC Council of Ministers, Gaston Thorn, to undertake yet another "fact-finding" mission to the Middle East. After a series of talks during which Thorn in early August also conferred with PLO Chairman Arafat, he announced on August 8, in Amman, that the next EEC Ministers Council on September 15-16 would decide on the form of a Middle East initiative. However, nothing happened.

VAIN EXPECTATIONS

On September 19, Thorn declared in Brussels that "the EEC would not allow the question of the Middle East peace initiative to be dropped" (*Guardian*, September 19, 1980.) At the end of a second round of talks in the Middle East, the EEC President declared in Jerusalem on September 30, that he expected the Europeans now to "accelerate" their involvement in the Middle East peace process. He told reporters that he expected the "summit meeting of the European leaders in Luxembourg in December to take steps to implement resolutions made at their summit, in Venice earlier this year." (*New York Times*, October 1, 1980.)



Worldwide strategy of confrontation: US AWACS over the Gulf...

EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE; OIL INTEREST

Parallel to the fact-finding mission of Thorn, the EEC leaders started to urge that efforts be made to revive the so-called Euro-Arab dialogue, which had begun after the October War shock but then was dropped due to the EEC governments' refusal to include political items into the talks and to recognize the PLO. In late July, the West German government called for "enlarging the Euro-Arab dialogue as soon as possible by adding a political dimension, so as to open the prospects for comprehensive economic, cultural and political cooperation between both groups of states," (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, July, 1980.)

After another decision on the EEC level, two delegations of the Arab League and the EEC finally met on November 12-13 in Luxembourg, with the EEC for the first time accepting that the PLO, represented by Ahmad Sedki al-Dajani, was heading the Arab delegation. The meeting decided to revive various technical commissions on questions of agriculture, trade and culture. The West European partners were especially eager to get talks under way on possible direct Arab-European oil agreements and supplies. On the other side, the Europeans again avoided in the meeting's political communique to officially spell out the recognition of the PLO and detailed Palestinian rights. Only vague plans for an Euro-Arab foreign ministers conference to take place in June or July next year were mentioned.

CONTRADICTIONARY POSITIONS ON THE PLO

The hesitating and wavering positions of the EEC towards the Middle East conflict become particularly clear with regard to the PLO. In July, Thorn declared that the EEC considers the PLO "a major partner in the negotiations" (agencies, July 26, 1980). In early September he stepped back saying that the EEC did not recognize PLO exclusivity of representation of the Palestinian people. (*Reuter*, September 5.) At his Jerusalem press conference of September 30, Thorn admitted that all the nine Palestinian leaders from the

West Bank and Gaza he met in Jerusalem, spoke of the PLO "as the exclusive representative" of the Palestinians. Then, immediately after the Euro-Arab meeting in Luxembourg where the Arab delegation was headed by the PLO, the West German government rushed to assure the visiting Israeli foreign minister Shamir that this did not mean a recognition of the PLO. (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, November 15, 1980.) A spokesperson for the British Foreign Office likewise announced (*Agence France Presse*, November 14, 1980), that the British government had "no intention of officially recognizing the PLO, which for the time being, could not be considered the only representative of the 'Palestinian people.'"

THE FALTERING INITIATIVE

At the same time press reports started to indicate that the European "initiative" was to be put off after all. The same Lord Carrington who in early June warned against a new oil embargo and considered it "important to prevent further radicalization of the Arab world" (*International Herald Tribune*, June 2, 1980) was now reported to oppose "any major European initiative" on the Arab-Israeli conflict "for

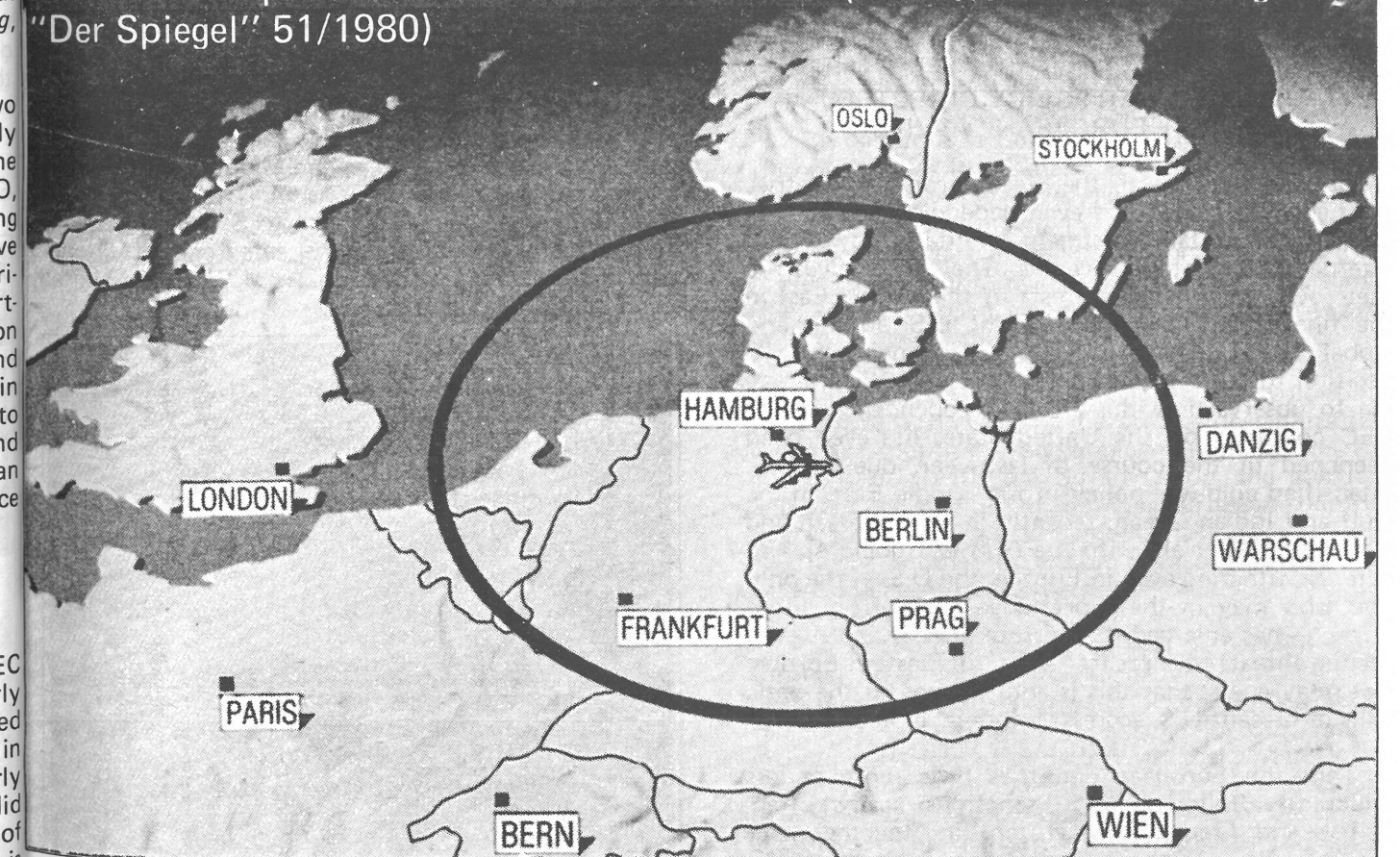
the next few months." Apparently the EEC leaders felt that one true aim of their "initiative", namely to prevent "further radicalization of the Arab world" already had been achieved in the meantime, that is: to prevent the Arabs from reacting directly and in a unified way to the obvious end of any prospect for a just solution of the Palestine problem and a comprehensive settlement emerging from the Camp David process.

It was also mentioned now that the Iranian-Iraqi war had "split the Arab world and drained some urgency from the Arab-Israeli dispute." (*International Herald Tribune*, ibid). In order to justify the apparent stalling of their so-called initiative at their Luxembourg Summit of early December, the EEC leaders also pointed out that the U.S. elections had delayed everything — as if the fact of elections to be held in the U.S. at the end of the year had not been foreseen already during the summer.

EUROPEAN CONTRADICTIONS AND WEAKNESS

The obviously wavering, opportunistic and at times hypocritical stance of the EEC governments

"The 4 AWACS Boeing E-3 A planes patrolling border areas near GDR and CSSR are with their radar systems able to control all plane and ship movements up to a 500 kilometer distance" (from West German magazine "Der Spiegel" 51/1980)



... US AWACS spying on Europe

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE EUROPEAN "MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE?"

with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question has its deep roots in the increasing contradictions of their political, economic and military position and interests.

From an objective point of view, the West Europeans must indeed be genuinely worried about the ongoing Middle East crisis and the rather destabilising results of the U.S. Camp David policy for the entire region. The West European countries differ from the United States in that they really depend on the direct oil flow from the Middle East and will be threatened immediately by any open crisis. While the U.S. is stepping up its military presence, arms sales and economic domination of certain countries in the area, the West Europeans are left in the cold. They see their trade positions threatened not only by U.S. competition in the markets but also by the generally prevailing climate of crisis and destabilization directly or indirectly caused and furthered by the United States' aggressive policies in the area. In case of any larger military conflagration, they would be the first to be affected.

U.S. COLD WAR POLICY DIRECTED AGAINST EUROPEAN "ALLIES"

On the other hand, the West European countries are tightly linked to and even depending on the U.S. as regards capital investment, military power and international strategic leverage. They themselves see their own imperialist interests in the Middle East in the final analysis guarded by the U.S. armada and global power. The same applies to their strategic position towards the socialist countries. It is interesting to observe how this strategic dependence of the EEC countries on the United States has even been deepened in the course of last year, due to U.S. intensified cold-war policy in the Middle East, in the Gulf and Indian Ocean, recently in Europe itself and elsewhere. After all, with the Gulf war going on and *detente* withering even in Europe, the U.S. — the only one who may in the short range profit from those crises — has enlarged its pressure arsenal and is even casting threats towards its "allies" in Western Europe. One may guess, that this is actually one of the basic aims of present U.S. aggressive foreign policy.

Thus the European countries have more or less reluctantly followed U.S. sanctions against Iran. British and French ships are cruising together with the U.S. Navy in the Indian Ocean, with the entire NATO planning backing up the rear of U.S. inter-

vention policy in the Middle East. But the West European governments are cutting into the flesh of their own people since they will not gain anything from the U.S. adventurous policy neither in the long run nor in the short run. This political dilemma if not schizophrenia comprised in the position of the EEC countries has characterized the "European initiative" following Camp David from the very beginning. In fact, the West Europeans have never comprised a front against the policy of Camp David. They always just sought to broaden it towards a "comprehensive settlement" — an enterprise based on wishful thinking given the fact that present U.S. Middle East policy in reality does not at all aim at a comprehensive settlement, but only at the exclusive U.S. penetration and domination of the entire area.

COVER-UP FOR CAMP DAVID

As for its practical results, the "European" initiative has always remained taken in tow by the U.S.-directed Camp David policy. The European initiative in the course of the past months has in fact served as a sort of tranquilizer to forestall reaction to the emerging nothingness of the "autonomy talks", in very much the same way these talks were meant by the share-holders of Camp David from the very beginning as a fig-leaf in order to disguise the true character of the Camp David agreements: a separate U.S.-dominated Sadat-Zionist pact.

THE JORDANIAN OPTION — THE OPPORTUNISM OF THE S.I.

Another slogan now in vogue in the Western political market place and also serving to justify the "postponement" of a European Middle East initiative is the so-called Jordanian option. The notion has it that with the "new" Reagan U.S. administration coming in and with the prospects for a "Labour" government back to power in Israel, the aged United

Hashemite Kingdom plan of the early seventies could be revived and "replace" the Camp David process. Respective hints have already been made from president elect Reagan. Likewise, the Israeli "Labour" party in its recent draft platform has recommended the "solution of the Palestinian problem in the framework of a single Jordanian-Palestinian state," hopefully ruled by the Hashemite regime. (*Jerusalem Post*, November 17.) "While the PLO is the only effective organization claiming to represent the Palestinians at the moment, there is no guarantee that it will always be the only one," the British *Times* of November 11, 1980 speculated ominously. At the same time the paper admitted that "the Camp David concept of Palestinian autonomy talks is in any case increasingly unrealistic against the background of crude and repressive Israeli behaviour in the West Bank."

Significantly the Socialist International, the gathering of social democratic and not so democratic forces in Western Europe and elsewhere (with, for instance, Sadat's national democratic party being admitted with observer status) also fell into the new opportunistic chorus intoning the canto of the Jordanian option. At the end of their latest session in Madrid of November 13-16 the S.I. openly accepted the position of the Israeli "Labour" party and approved a common statement issued by their chairman, former West German chancellor Willy Brandt, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, Egyptian Foreign Minister Butros Ghali and Shimon Peres, the leader of the Israeli opposition party. This statement called on all Arab states to "follow the courageous initiative of President Sadat" and called on "all neighboring countries and in particular Jordan to consider their responsibilities and start negotiations with Israel." (*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, November 16, 1980). Chancellor Kreisky, the co-chairman and Middle East expert of the S.I., paid a four day visit to Jordan already in early October.

ANOTHER NON-STARTER

This talk of the "Jordanian option" is in reality nothing new, and by no means contradicting the intentions of the Camp David approach. Immediately after the first agreements signed in Camp David the United States already tried as "the next step" to drag King Hussein of Jordan in. Again, when the fallacy of the "autonomy talks" became obvious in May 1980, President Carter himself invited King Hussein to join the process.

Nobody should indulge in any illusions about the real practicable aspects of a "Jordanian option". The West European leaders — of "socialist" and non-socialist color — should know better. From the U.S. point of view, the Jordanian option just means another "step" in the continuous U.S. step-by-step and piecemeal strategy which has never been interrupted but has only temporarily been disguised by the

deceitful "comprehensive settlement" propaganda of the Carter administration.

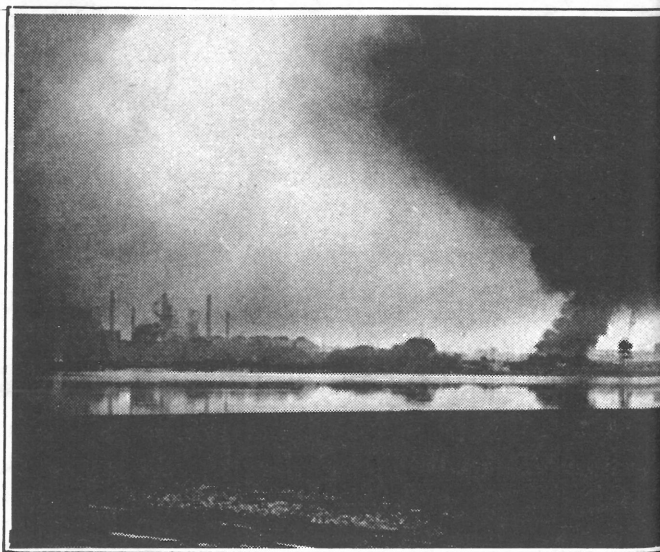
As for an Israeli "Labour" government, it has used the "Jordanian option" already in the early seventies for propagandistic purposes, while on the ground intensifying its policy of settlements and repression in the occupied territories.

One should also not forget that King Hussein's position is not the same as Sadat's. Nor are the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip of Palestine equal to the Sinai. A Jordanian king will have to think twice before taking over from the Israelis the occupation of the Palestinian people experienced in fighting for their national liberation and independence and committed to their PLO leadership. After all one should not forget that the Golan Heights belonging to Syria, the neighbor of the Hashemite King, are still under occupation, too. Indeed, there is little practical room left for another separate deal along a "Jordanian option." On the other side, there is neither any way towards a comprehensive and real settlement without both the PLO and Syria participating in it. In praxis the propaganda of a "Jordanian option", far from contributing to a peaceful and just solution, may just serve to increase pressure and aggression against the Palestinian people and the PLO; or even to prepare for another bloodbath as that one arranged in 1970/71 in Jordan and in 1975/76 in Lebanon, however, without any "solution" emerging afterwards.

CONCLUSIONS

The Middle East policy of the United States' West European allies in general and their so-called Middle East initiative in particular have proved highly inconsistent and opportunistic. In practical terms they have functioned to date as flanking maneuvers serving the higher strategy of U.S. imperialist policies in the area. The West European governments have so far proven unable to assert the real interests of their people in face of their U.S. patron. They continue to be the losers in the game. If the U.S. is allowed to continue its dangerous strategy in the area of destabilization, military penetration, economic monopolization and confrontation with the Soviet Union, the positions and even the stability of the West European countries and peoples will be affected on all levels. And if eventually another explosion goes off, it will have catastrophic results for them.

A real political solution cannot be brought about through an opportunistic and merely tactical "European initiative", even less via a "Jordanian option". It can only be based on a change in U.S. policy, including a renewed *detente* with the Soviet Union. And it can never exclude the fighting Palestinian people led by the PLO but must work for the sincere and unequivocal realization of their rights.



Abadan refinery ablaze:

Europe first to feel the oil pinch

WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Brezhnev to US: Don't threaten the Gulf.

USSR PROPOSES NEUTRALIZATION OF GULF AREA

On his recent visit to India, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev invited "the United States, other Western powers, China, Japan and all states that display interest" to join with the Soviet Union in a formal compact to forswear military and naval intervention in the Gulf area. Addressing the Indian Parliament on December 10 the Soviet President blamed "powers situated at a distance of many thousands of kilometers" from the Gulf for building up "a military armada" and piling up armaments in the region under the pretext of a non-existing "Soviet Threat." The Soviet Union who is self-sufficient in oil and energies had no interest nor "intention of encroaching upon either the Middle East oil or its transportation route."

Outlining "a doctrine of peace and security" in regard to the countries of the Gulf, President Brezhnev spelled out five elements of a Gulf region nonaggression pact: He said the interested states should agree "not to set up foreign military bases in the Persian Gulf area and on the adjacent islands." They should not deploy nuclear weapons there. Similarly, the powers should "not use or threaten to use force against the countries of the Persian Gulf area and not interfere in their internal affairs." President Brezhnev added that the interested major powers should not try to draw Gulf states "into

military groupings." Finally, he said, they should agree "not to raise any obstacles or pose threats to normal trade exchanges and the use of sea lanes linking the states of the area with other countries of the world."

In his address to a huge rally in Beirut celebrating the Palestinian Revolution's 16th anniversary PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat declared that "the proposal made by President Brezhnev for the region is valuable for resolving the conflicts in the region and keeping the naval concentrations and threats of nuclear war off."



Kissinger embraces Begin

KISSINGER TOUR: THE MASTERMIND OF MASSACRES IS BACK

The political editor of the Palestinian news agency WAFA on December 28 wrote the following assessment of former US Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger's current visit to the Middle East:

"Kissinger is back in the Arab region in a new attempt to breathe life into the comatose Camp David peace process, the fruit of his shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East during the Mid-1970s."

"As US President elect Ronald Reagan prepares to move into the White House, we see Kissinger's tour

an attempt to create a new platform from which to launch a fresh initiative after the setbacks suffered by the Camp David accords in the face of the peoples of this region. We see Kissinger making his first stop in Egypt, where he will continue to prod President Sadat along the American path, which he chose with such enthusiasm. Sadat is now easier to lead, now that he has squandered his negotiating cards and has become a pawn with no choice but to comply with American plans.

"We see Kissinger moving on to Israel to offer her more services and study jointly the plan which the new US administration is devising for the region with the help of its Israeli allies. We understand these moves, but what we do not understand, and what makes us call for increased caution is Kissinger's proposed visits to other Arab states. This is because the Kissinger we remember is the architect of the Lebanese war, the man responsible for bloodshed and tragedy in the Middle East, in Chile and in other regions in the Third World. We see in Kissinger an enemy concocting conspiracies, sowing divisions, and destroying all human values for the sake of safeguarding the interests of the US and perpetuating its hegemony over the region and its wealth.

"Kissinger arrives in the Middle East with the policies of the Camp David trio in deadlock. Will the notorious engineer of conspiracies save these policies, and what will be the price this time, and which state will have to bear the burden of his schemes? During the fifties and sixties, the time of Arab resurgence, many conspiratorial American envoys visited our region, but the masses forced them to return empty-handed. Today, as Kissinger prepares himself for the Arab tour, will this creditable image of the past return? We are waiting not for the regimes, but for the peoples. However, we will not remain idle. Our fighters will once again check Kissinger's new plots as they did during the Lebanese war when they prevented his Phalangist allies from executing the US-Israeli orders."

USSR DENOUNCES U.S. DESIGNS ON THE GULF

On January 3, 1981, the Soviet official newspaper *Pravda* denounced what it called the will of the United States "to set up a third center of military power under the protection of its nuclear umbrella." After Western Europe and the Far East, writes *Pravda*, now the militarisation of the Indian Ocean is at stake, and even if the United States has been able to entangle other countries such as Great Britain, France and Australia into its projects, it is striving nevertheless to dispose alone of the resources of the region like the petrol, "so as to get another leverage of pressure against its allies into its hands." *Pravda* contrasts these "large militaristic maneuvers near the Soviet frontiers" with the peace plan proposed for the Gulf area by President Brezhnev last December.



Zionist soldiers brutalizing Palestinian student

AGAINST ISRAELI TERROR AND THREATS

PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS STAND UP FOR THEIR HOMELAND

The Palestinian masses inside the occupied territories confirm that the struggle for the Palestinian identity is daily taking on new dimensions. Alongside the gun and its achievements on the path of victory, the Palestinian people under occupation are daily confirming to the world that their upheaval will undoubtedly lead to victory. A mere attempt to organize a Palestinian folkloric week in Bir Zeit University in mid-November resulted in terror among the Zionist settlers, who responded with tear gas grenades, large-scale arrest campaigns, and the closure of universities and schools. Because of their determination to assert the identity of the Palestinian masses however, Bir Zeit students held a mock wedding procession in the streets, thereby successfully violating the ceasefire imposed by the enemy. And instead of a folkloric week, they took to the streets, chanting songs and slogans calling for armed struggle and protesting the second deportation of Qawasmeh and Milhem. They raised Palestinian flags and confronted the occupation forces with barricades and stone-throwing, voicing their decision to escalate the uprising against the occupation, despite dozens of

PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS STAND UP FOR THEIR HOMELAND

arrest and measures of repression, including the disruption of classes in schools and universities in Bir Zeit, Nablus, Gaza, Bethlehem, Ramallah.

STUDENTS MALTREATED

On December 15 Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer, speaking at a press conference held in Jerusalem and sponsored by the Committee for a Just Peace, has accused the Israeli Military Administration in the West Bank of creating an atmosphere of terror in the occupied territories by giving free hand to any soldier to commit acts of aggression against the Palestinian people living under occupation. She noted that the re-expulsion of West Bank mayors Qawasmeh and Milhem had led to increased unrest in the occupied territories.

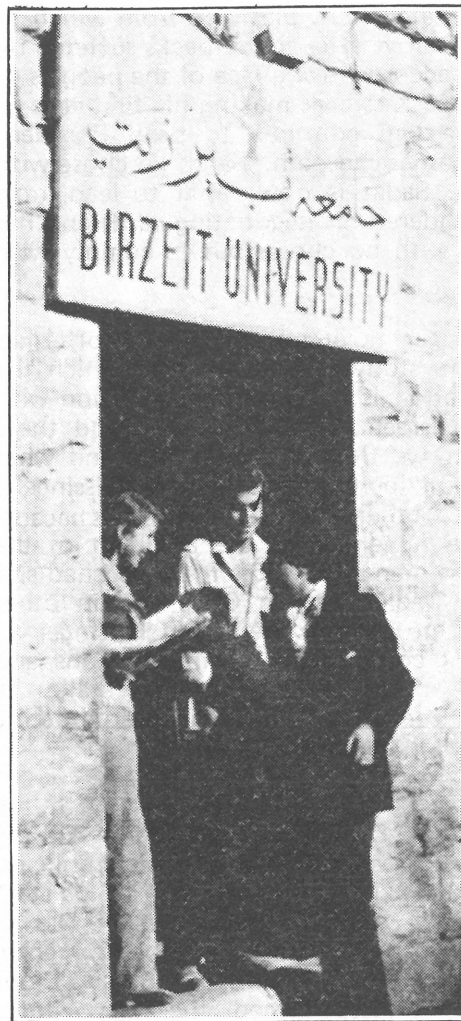
She also spoke about student arrests, particularly recent ones, and said detainees were first transferred to the military administration headquarters and were beaten by soldiers who then forced them to do humiliating work. She added that it had taken her four days of legal procedures finally to transfer some students to prison. This was an achievement, she said, if it were to be compared with the treatment students received at the military administration headquarters. She reported the testimonies of students who gave accounts of their maltreatment, citing the example of a Bir Zeit student who had a broken arm when arrested and was treated by an Israeli soldier with the breaking of his other arm. The press conference was to have been attended by West Bank university students but the authorities refused to grant them permission to come to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile the Israeli press office declared that journalists conveying West Bank news are prohibited to film demonstrations and that they would require an Israeli military escort during such missions.

STUDENTS IN WEST BANK REMAINED ON STRIKE; COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

Students throughout the West Bank are continuing their protest against the deportation of Qawasmeh and Milhem and the aggressive measures taken by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian academic institutions in the occupied territories.

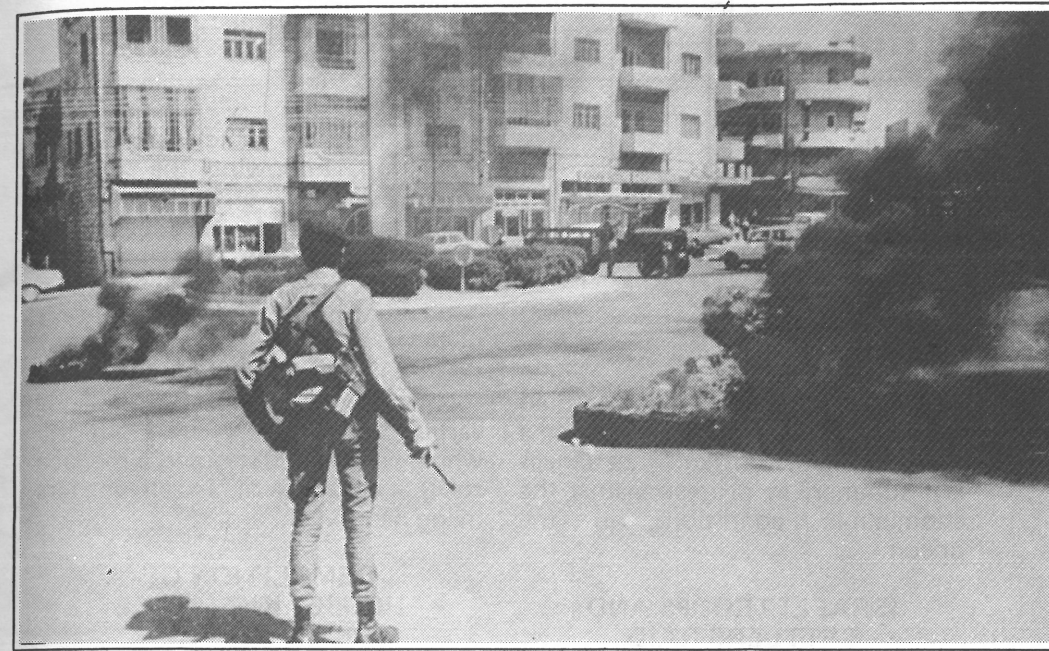
On December 18 a large number of Bir Zeit students and professors staged a sit-in in front of the headquarters of the Israeli military governor in Ramallah. The sit-in expressed their denunciation of



the current trial of students for participating in the recent West Bank demonstrations. The students attracted the attention of a large number of local and foreign correspondents, which in turn led Israeli forces to prepare for interference in case of a student uprising.

An Israeli Military Court in Ramallah on December 19 sentenced twelve Palestinian students to prison terms varying between two and six months, on charges of taking part in recent demonstrations. The same court on December 18 sentenced the Palestinian students Ahmad Khalil Sulaiman to 6 months in jail; and Mehdi Abu al-Qama'n; Khalid Adel al-Sha'er; Fathi Ghanem; Jamal Diab and Muhammad Khamees Hassan to four months in prison each. All were arrested on 29 November on charges of demonstrating and carrying the Palestinian flag.

On December 15 acting Mayor of Ramallah, Rev. Awdeh al-Rantees, demanded the release of all students arrested recently by the Israeli forces for taking part in strikes and demonstrations in major West Bank cities and towns. He warned against the on-going arbitrary measures aimed at Palestinian citizens and universities, adding that these measures



Burning barricades in Ramallah

could only lead to an increase in tension and anger among Palestinian citizens.

The students of the Najah National University and other schools of Nablus continued their strike in protest against the Israeli authorities' campaign of repression. The Israeli authorities detained 12 pupils of Qadri Tuqan School and a number of professors of the Najah University. The military court fined the students I.L. 5-7,000 on charges of participating in demonstrations. Moreover the Israeli authorities fined the parents of all the students under arrest up to I.L. 1,000 each, on charges of their children's participating in the latest demonstrations. Dr. Abd al-Haq, President of the Najah National University demanded the release of all Palestinian students; he also described the torture and brutality to which students have been exposed to while in prison.

JANUARY 8: DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

In Bethlehem, the Israeli authorities ordered the indefinite closure of the University, and closed off the area after Israeli forces raided the camps. At the same time the Israeli authorities held under detention 12 students of the Bethlehem secondary school for girls. They were arrested on charges of participating in the latest demonstrations. The detention of seven schoolboys aged between 12-14 years and charged with stoning Israeli soldiers continues. The authorities have turned down appeals by the children's parents for their release. The schoolboys, who are from the Azza Camp near Bethlehem, were arrested at the end of November.

On December 15 students of the University of Bethlehem held a meeting designating January 8th a Day of Solidarity with Palestinian Students to mark the 8 hour siege by Israeli soldiers at the University.

Also in Haifa in 48-occupied Palestine, the Arab University Student Council on December 9 held a meeting to protest the current measures against the Palestinian students and inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and especially the Israeli military authorities' interference in the educational affairs of the occupied territories. A meeting was later interrupted when Israeli police raided the meeting place and hurled tear-gas grenades in an attempt to break up the session.

PALESTINIAN TEACHERS REMAIN ON OPEN STRIKE

Approximately 5000 Palestinian school teachers at the end of December announced their determination to continue a general strike in protest against the Israeli policy of depriving Palestinian inhabitants of their rights to education and the subsequent deliberate neglect of Palestinian schools in the occupied territories. They demanded that the Israeli authorities stop all interference in academic affairs, and release students and teachers arrested for participating in demonstrations.

On December 27 the Israeli authorities warned all Palestinian teachers in the occupied West Bank against the prolongation of their week long strike. General Dany Matt, the Israeli Military Governor of the West Bank, said that the Israeli military administration will adopt a policy of mass expulsion against the teachers if the strike goes on. Over 6,000 Palestinian school teachers in the occupied territories are continuing their strike despite repeated Israeli threats. A large number of schools are still closed as a result of the strike, which began in the middle of December in protest against an Israeli military order allowing interference in the educational affairs of the occupied territories.



Prisoners' families: "Close Nafha!"

NAFHA DETAINEE'S HEALTH BADLY DETERIORATING

The health of Abdel Rajat al-Qatab, a Palestinian prisoner in Nafha jail sentenced in 1967 to 20 years in jail for affiliation to the Palestinian Revolution is reported to be deteriorating dangerously as a result of maltreatment and torture by the Israeli prison authorities.

The prisoner has been denied any medical treatment, despite the precariousness of his health. Three Palestinian prisoners in Nafha died as a result of force-feeding during a six-week hunger strike by detainees last summer, in protest against the abominable conditions in the prison.

ISRAELI TROOPS AND SETTLERS RAID AL-DUHEISHA CAMP

Israeli settlers on the night of the December 18, closed off the Duheisha camp near Bethlehem, using buses of the Egged Company and firing at the camp's inhabitants. The settlers justified their action on the grounds that stones had been

thrown at Israeli vehicles passing by the camp. Following the settlers' action, troops arrived on the scene, surrounded the camp and imposed a curfew. Israeli patrols entered the camp and raided a number of homes under the pretext of looking for those responsible for the incident. It should be noted that the Israeli military governor earlier threatened to wipe out the whole camp since it posed a menace to the security of Israeli settlers living nearby.

DEMOLITION OF HOUSES IN GALILEE

Clashes broke out on December 18 in the Galilee villages of Deir Hanna and Tamra when the Israeli forces entered the villages to demolish a number of houses. The villagers of Tamra confronted more than 600 Israeli troops and border guards which had come to demolish the home of Abed Abu Saleh



Demolished Palestinian house in Galilee

al-Traboulsi. The Israeli forces responded by throwing tear-gas grenades, and arrested a large number of villagers. The local village council held a meeting, attended by thousands of nearby villagers to protest the Israeli authorities new schemes

to disperse Palestinian villagers. The village council is due to hold an emergency meeting to adopt appropriate measures in order to confront the Israeli authorities on-going demolition plans. The Democratic Front of Tamra also issued a

communique denouncing the whole affair and called for a united front to confront the Israeli policy of demolition.

MOVEMENT OF TWO PALESTINIAN MILITANTS RESTRICTED

The Israeli authorities imposed a restriction of movement order for a period of six months on two female Palestinians, Marian al-Shakhshir and Iman al-Samadi from Nablus. This is the third time these two women have been subjected to such measures since their release from jail a year ago. The two were imprisoned for a period of ten years on charges of affiliation with the Palestinian Revolution.

ZIONIST SETTLERS BEAT UP HEBRON CITIZEN

Israeli settlers from Kiryat

QAWASMEH AND MILHEM STAGE HUNGER STRIKE: SECURITY COUNCIL DEMANDS THEIR RETURN

On December 9, the Palestinian mayors of Khalil (Hebron) and Halhoul, Fahd al-Qawasmeh and Muhammed Milhem, deported by the Zionists from their homeland, left Beirut for New York to plead their case before the UN Security Council. After the mayors' first deportation in May, the Security Council adopted two resolutions confirming their right to return to their homeland. On December 19, in a vote of 15-0, the Security Council adopted a third resolution calling for the mayors' return. The Security Council declared that it was imperative that Israel allow the two Palestinian mayors to return home from where they were deported and redeported on December 6. The deportations were called a violation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the treatment of civilians in war-occupied territories.

At the same time Qawasmeh and Milhem announced their intention to begin a hunger strike and a sit-in at the Security Council Building in New York. Qawasmeh declared,



Fighting to return: Mayor Qawasmeh, Sheikh Tamimi and Mayor Milhem

"Israel, as is well known, does not respect or implement UN resolutions, and so we had to show the world the Israeli government's blatant disregard of the will of the international community. The only means we have to state our case is to stage a hunger-strike."

Muhammad Milhem said that both he and Qawasmeh had been strongly reinforced by the

fresh UN resolutions supporting their return. He said: "We know the extent of Israeli stubbornness and arrogance. Nevertheless the world should listen to the voice of the Palestinian people and take note that, though we may die several times a day by Zionist repression, terrorism and killing, we continue to live on as a people thanks to our will and determination to establish a state of our own."

SOLIDARITY

Dozens of Palestinian women in Jerusalem declared a one-day hunger strike on December 23, and demanded the return of Qawasmeh and Milhem. The women who staged the sit-in in front of the International Committee of the Red Cross headquarters in Jerusalem handed ICRC officials a protest memorandum and distributed a communique denouncing Israeli violations of human rights. Participating in the sit-in were the wives of Qawasmeh and Milhem and representatives of various women's unions in the West Bank..

Thousands of Palestinian, Arab and American citizens stayed a massive demonstration in front of the United Nations building in New York to express their solidarity with the Palestinian

mayors in the evening of December 23. The demonstrators carried candles and banners and also staged a sit-in at the headquarters of the U.S. and Israeli missions. At the same time cables were of solidarity with the Palestinian mayors flew in from all over the world. Among many others, the Palestinian-Swiss Friendship Association expressed full support for the two deported Palestinian Mayors of al-Khalil and of Halhoul for their hunger strike in protest against the Israeli deportation order. In a cable sent to the UN on December 23, the President of the Association of Soviet Friendship and Solidarity with the Palestinian people also confirmed full support for the Qawasmeh-Milhem case. The association called for the ending of oppressive measures against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, confirming the illegality of the Israeli deportation order.

A PLO official spokesman on December 24 issued a statement affirming that deported West Bank Mayors Fahd Qawasmeh of al-Khalil and Muhammad Hassan Milhem of Halhoul had agreed to a request by UN Secretary-General Dr. Kurt Waldheim that they suspend their sit-in and hunger-strike. The UN Secretary-General promised that he would continue his efforts at implementing the Security Council resolutions.

OCCUPATION

DIARY

Arba', West of al-Khalil (Hebron) beat up Moussa Abdel Karim al-Jundi (56) on his way home on December 21. The settlers stopped al-Jundi and ordered him to accompany them to the settlement. Jundi refused, at which point he was hit on the head with the butt of a machine gun. He was later transferred to hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, Israeli settlers sprayed provocative slogans and literature all over the walls of Hebron's central market, calling for the expulsion of all Palestinian inhabitants.

HEBRON INHABITANTS PREVENTED FROM TRAVEL

The Israeli authorities are continuing their oppressive campaign against the Palestinian inhabitants of al-Khalil (Hebron), by preventing all those whose ages range between 15 and 40 from leaving the occupied West Bank. According to reports from the occupied territories, this latest measure was part of an Israeli plan which began a week ago to cut off the town of Hebron from the rest of the occupied territories.

GOLAN HEIGHTS: ZIONIST MANIA UNABATED

Less than 24 hours after the decision by the Israeli Cabinet to postpone a backbench proposal to annex the occupied Golan Heights, an opinion poll conducted for the English-language newspaper *Jerusalem Post* has shown that a large majority of Israeli voters are in favour of annexation. Just over 60 per cent of those questioned replied "yes" when asked "Do you favour the extension of Israeli law over the Golan Heights and their incorporation in Israel?" — 32.7 per cent said "no" and a further 1.1 per cent

replied "yes, but not now"; while 6.1 per cent of the sample of 1,302 adults were undecided.

Reporting the results, the paper noted that the responses had cut across party lines. The poll is seen as strengthening the hand of those pressing for government action on the Golan. Faced with mounting international protests and pressure, the Begin government on December 23 has decided to postpone plans for the immediate overt annexation of the Golan Heights.

HISTADRUT FINANCES SETTLEMENT EXPANSION ON GOLAN

The Zionist labour syndicate Histadrut has decided to set up a large industrial project in the Israeli settlement of Katsarin on the 67-occupied Golan Heights. This was announced by the Israeli daily "Al-Hamishmar" on December 25. Histadrut's secretary general Yeruham Meshel declared on a visit to the Golan that "many talk about the necessity to develop the Golan while Histadrut is effectively engaged to work for this aim."

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF WAR

The Palestinian Christian community living under Israeli occupation in Bethlehem and Jerusalem celebrated Christmas this year with Israeli troops filling the streets, occupying the rooftops and arresting dozens of Palestinian citizens in a series of unprecedented security measures designed to suppress anti-occupation activity. It is noteworthy that the number of pilgrims and tourists visiting the holy towns showed a marked drop this year.

SENTENCES AGAINST PALESTINIAN CITIZENS

The Israeli military court in Lydd on December 26 issued sentences of 8 and 12 years respectively on the Palestinian citizens Ghazi al-Noubani and Muhammad Youssef Musaad. The same court sentenced Ahmad Fawzi al-Deik to 5 years in jail, including two years suspended, on charges of their affiliation to Fateh, and resistance to the Zionist occupation.



Zionist soldier observing Christmas in Bethlehem

ARMED RESISTANCE

PALESTINIAN COMMANDOS ATTACK ZIONIST SETTLEMENT

No. 116/80:

Palestinian forces operating inside the occupied territories on December 14 at 8:00 P.M. engaged in a battle with enemy forces who were patrolling in the region of the Zar'it settlement, in the Upper Galilee region. Israeli reinforcements were immediately sent in to encircle the Palestinian commandos and heavily shelled the region. Helicopters and warplanes also overflew the region, dropping flares. Palestinian military sources indicated that Israeli losses were 15 dead and wounded soldiers, and the destruction of a military vehicle. During the operation, the Palestinian commando Mahmoud al-Nabulsi was martyred; while Jamal Mahmoud Youssef Mahmoud and Mahmoud Youssef Suleiman Jaber were captured by the Israelis.

No. 117/80:

Palestinian commandos operating in the occupied territories on December 25 at 12:30 PM raided an Israeli military camp near the

Hanita settlement in Upper Galilee. The commando unit used rockets and machine guns in the operation, in which several Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded. Fighting continued until 1:30 the following morning. Israeli reinforcements were called in, and the area was subjected to an artillery bombardment as the Israeli forces attempted to capture the Palestinian commandos. However, the Palestinian unit eventually managed to escape, despite losing five of their number. The five Palestinian militants martyred during the operation are Abdel Karim Ali Ahmad Ja'far, Issam Ali Hussein 'Ataya, Ishaq Abdel Rahman Khalifeh, Muhammad As'ad Muhammad Ka'oush and Rustum Abdallah Rustum.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGES IN JERUSALEM AND DIMONA

No. 118/80:

Palestinian commandos of special unit "B", on Saturday December 27, planted a timed explosive charge inside a military transportation station in the Jilo district on the outskirts of Jerusalem. At 8:30



No "security" in constant aggression: Zionists patrol Tel Aviv beach

in the evening, the charge was discovered by an Israeli soldier, who immediately called in an explosives expert to detonate it on the site. The explosion resulted in material losses both to the station and the surrounding buildings. Another Palestinian special commando unit on December 24, planted a timed explosive charge inside the Zionist settlement of Dimona in the Negev region. The charge was discovered the evening of the same day when an explosives expert detonated it on site. The explosion resulted in large material losses in the settlement. A large number of Palestinian citizens were arrested following the operation. The commando unit returned safely to base.

TWO MILITARY TRANSPORT STATIONS DAMAGED ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED

No. 119/80:

Palestinian commandos of special unit "B" planted a timed explosive charge inside an Israeli transportation station at the southern entrance of the town of Asqalan on December 29. The charge exploded at 8:30 A.M. during the rush hour, wounding a large number of Israeli soldiers, and damaging a large part of the station. The region was immediately encircled and scores of Palestinians were arrested. The commando unit returned safely to base.

No. 120/80:

A Palestinian commando unit operating inside the occupied territories planted an explosive charge inside one of the main military transportation stations located near the sports arena in the Mishmar region at the northern entrance of the town of 'Asqalan. The charge exploded at exactly 8:15 AM on December 29, again during the rush hour, when a large number of Israeli soldiers were present. The explosion killed and wounded several of those present; and seriously damaged the station. Israeli police forces were immediately called in, and the usual arrest campaign was carried out. The unit returned safely to base.

1980 IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES:

THE CHRONICLE OF REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

In 1980, West Bank was the focus of the Palestinian resistance owing to the countless Israeli aggressive provocations and armed attacks against the Palestinian population living there.

On April 21 fanatical settlers from the Gush Emunim organized a 12 km rampage through the West Bank to urge the Zionist government to intensify its settlement activity in the occupied territories. In response to this settler provocation, hundreds of Palestinians from all over the West Bank gathered for a counter-demonstration. At the same time a call was issued for a general strike to protest Zionist attacks.



Zionist troops stalking Ramallah

The strike began on April 24 paralysing the daily life throughout the West Bank. Demonstrators filled the streets of Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus and Bethlehem announcing support for the PLO and condemning the aggressive settler attacks. Till the end of April there were continuous clashes between Palestinians and Israeli army patrols. Hundreds of students and civilians were arrested.

On May 1, Zionist soldiers attacked a Palestinian school in the West Bank village of Anabta and opened fire on the students killing one of them and injuring many others. This was the backdrop to the Palestinian commando operation carried out on the following day.

DEPORTATION OF POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

On May 2, Palestinian commandos carried out an operation which was one of the most carefully executed military operations in the history of resistance in the occupied territories. A large band of armed Zionist settlers were about to enter a building, occupied earlier this year in the center of Hebron, when the Palestinian fighters surprised them with grenades and machine gun fire. Six of the settlers were killed and other 17 seriously wounded.

In the wake of the commando operation, the first reprisal action taken by the Zionist authorities was to deport the Mayor of Hebron, Fahd Qawasmeh, the Mayor of Halhoul, Muhammad Milhem and Hebron's religious judge, Sheikh Al-Tamimi. Immediately after the illegal deportation Qawasmeh and Milhem began their struggle to return to their homeland.

During the following 5 1/2 months the two mayors travelled around the world appealing to the world public opinion to support their demand. Their case was discussed in special Security Council sessions and resulted in two resolutions sent to the Israeli government expressing their right to return to their posts and homes.

On October 14 the two mayors arrived at Allenby Bridge where they had a hearing before the Advisory Committee of the Military Government of the occupied West Bank. After a ten day hunger strike to protest the Advisory Committee's decision to uphold the deportation order, their case was heard by the High Court. On December 5 the Zionist government re-expelled the two Palestinian mayors, who intend to follow their struggle by appealing to the UN and world opinion, as they expressed in a press conference held in Beirut on December 6.

The UN Security Council, on December 19, adopted a new resolution calling for the immediate return of the deported mayors to their homeland. The resolution also called on Israel to implement international law and respect the Geneva Conventions relative to the treatment of civilians in war time which prohibits deportation. This resolution was the third calling on Israel to rescind its decision. Qawasmeh and Milhem decided to stage a sit-in and a hunger strike at the Security Council until the UN implements its decision.

Following the deportation of the mayors further reprisals began with a total curfew on most of the towns in the West Bank. Many houses were blown up and several shops demolished. Hundreds of Palestinians were arrested and dragged to Israeli jails.

Against the wave of Zionist repression and brutality Palestinians in the occupied territories employed multiple forms of resistance to defend themselves. In the camps and towns youths confronted the army patrols with stones. Merchants closed their shops. Women, students and workers staged daily sit-ins and demonstrations to denounce the oppression. Palestinians in Israeli jails also joined the people by staging hunger strikes in the prisons. The Zionist attacks just strengthened the resistance of the Palestinians.

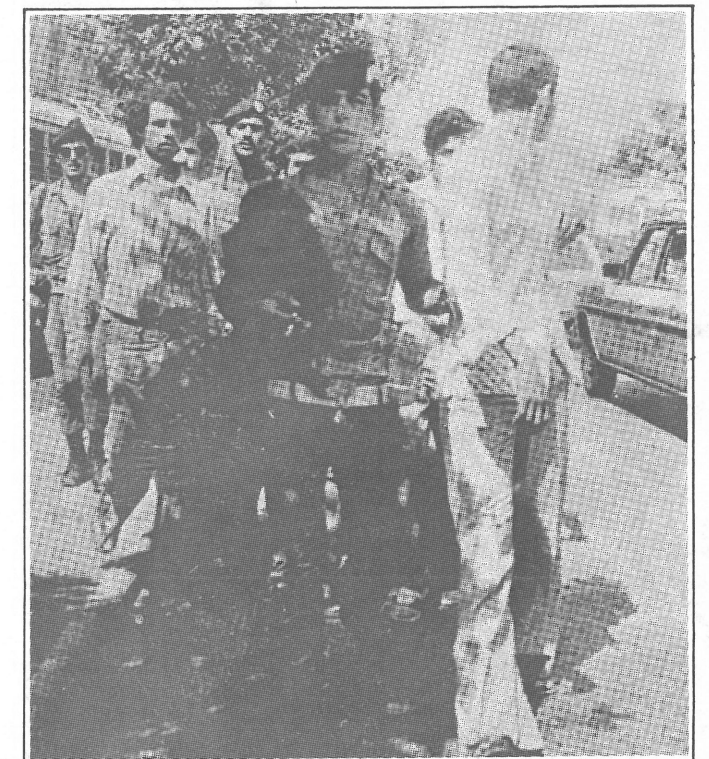
During May, the occupied West Bank remained in a state of a general uprising. Military authorities adopted arbitrary measures, as collective punishment, mass arrests against the Palestinian citizens. According to the Agence France Presse (AFP) in May alone 800 Palestinians were arrested and subjected to humiliation and harassment.

ATTEMPTS TO LIQUIDATE MAYORS

On June 2 another heinous crime was committed by the Begin government. Nablus Mayor, Bassam al-Shak'a and the Mayor of Ramallah, Karim Khalaf, were seriously injured when the bombs planted in their cars exploded. Shak'a lost both his legs and Khalaf lost one foot. The bomb planted in the car of Al-Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Tawil was discovered in time and the mayor escaped injury.

The assassination attempts were accompanied by several bomb explosions in Arab towns in the West Bank injuring a number of Palestinian citizens.

Although the Begin government tried to hint that the assassination attempts against the mayors as well as the deportation order against the Palestinian leaders were the consequences of the May 2nd commando operation, in fact it is Zionist policy to liquidate or expell Palestinian patriots from their homeland. During this year Israel escalated its terror against the Palestinian population living in the occupied territories. The Zionist government applied the most arbitrary measures against the Palestinian civilians. They included curfews, collective punishment, mass arrests as well as demolition of houses. All these measures were an attempt to suppress the Palestinian uprising following the so-called 'autonomy talks' between Israel and Egypt by the sponsorship of the United States. Failing to break the Palestinian steadfastness, the Begin government pursued a systematized terror campaign against the Palestinians. The assassination attempts and the deportations are a part



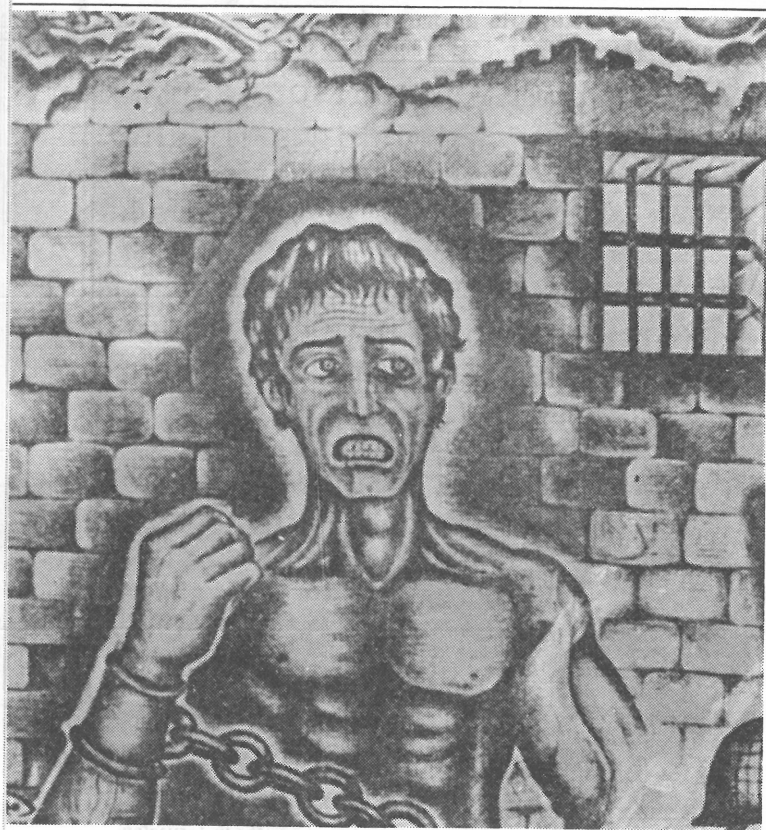
Zionist border police rounding up Palestinian youths in Jerusalem

THE CHRONICLE OF REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

of this campaign. The Begin government is responsible for the assassination attempts which planned to kill Palestinian leaders in order to terrorize and intimidate Palestinians into leaving their homeland.

PRISON HUNGER-STRIKES

The Israeli authorities also stepped up their aggression against Palestinians in Israeli jails. The detainees all over the occupied territories are subjected to senseless brutality. The torture and the unbearable conditions in Israeli jails led the Palestinians in Nafha prison to begin a hunger strike on July 11 which continued for over a month. The Palestinian militants imprisoned in Nafha prison in the Negev desert started their strike to protest both the mental and physical cruelty they have been exposed to by the Israeli authorities. They demanded to be treated as prisoners of war according to the Geneva Conventions. They revealed the intolerable conditions in jail under which they live day by day. A large number of detainees in Israeli jails die or are maimed for a life



Painting by a Palestinian prisoner
smuggled out of Ashkelon Prison

as a result of the brutal torture used against them. They issued a worldwide appeal for solidarity with them in what they listed the names of the detainees killed during torture which is a routine matter in Israeli jails.

The Israeli prison authorities reacted to the prisoners' hunger strike by severe brutality. In order to break the hunger strike they subjected the strikers to force-feeding and injections. Detainees died during the force-feeding, which was called by a prison spokesman as "Jewish humanism". In fact it was another brutal torture. The guards forced tubes down the prisoners' throat into their lungs and poured in salt water suffocating them to death. This is the so-called "Jewish humanism", which aimed not to keep the strikers in life but to break their steadfastness.

The Nafha prisoners case caused a widespread anger all over the occupied territories. Palestinian detainees in other Israeli jails including Bir-al-Sabe, Gaza, Shatta, Askalan and Ramleh prisons, joined the strike in solidarity with their comrades. The relatives and the supporters of the prisoners held sit-ins at the office of the International Red Cross in Jerusalem. Daily demonstrations were held in Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and many West Bank towns to support the strikers and protest the Zionist authorities' brutality against them.

The prisoners' hunger strike ended on August 17. The detainees' conditions seriously deteriorated as a result of the long weeks of hunger strike, but their steadfastness could not be broken. They continued their strike in face of the most brutal torture in the hands of their gaolers, bringing to the attention of the world the maltreatment of the Palestinian prisoners. Their alleged crimes range from the membership in Palestinian liberation movement to resisting the occupation by any means. The conditions in the prisons are terrible. Not mentioning the daily tortures, they are forced to sleep on the floor without blankets in overcrowded cells where the only ventilation is the holes in the walls. The Palestinian prisoners have not special places to eat as the Jewish ones, but they eat in their cells which contain only one open toilet for the all inmates. They are forbidden books and are allowed to receive guests only once in every five or six weeks, whereas the Jewish prisoners receive guests every week. The Israeli prison authorities refuse permission for the International Red Cross to visit Israeli jails, with the exception by special ones, preventing them from revealing the terrible conditions for the world. But the Nafha prisoners' month-long hunger strike, which could not be hidden from world public opinion, showed the real face of the Israeli jails, what was described by the Israeli lawyer Mrs. Felicia Langer as sadistic.



"PALESTINE" INTERVIEW WITH
ABUL WALID:

"WE WILL CONTINUE OUR MILITARY AND POLITICAL STRUGGLE TO BUILD AN INDEPENDENT STATE"

The head of the PLO's central operation room in Lebanon and member of Fateh's Central Committee, Abul Walid, gave us the following survey of the military and political situation of the Palestinian Revolution at the end of 1980, in particular in confronting the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon.

— What are the aims of Israel's stepped-up terrorism against the Palestinian Resistance in Lebanon, especially in southern Lebanon?

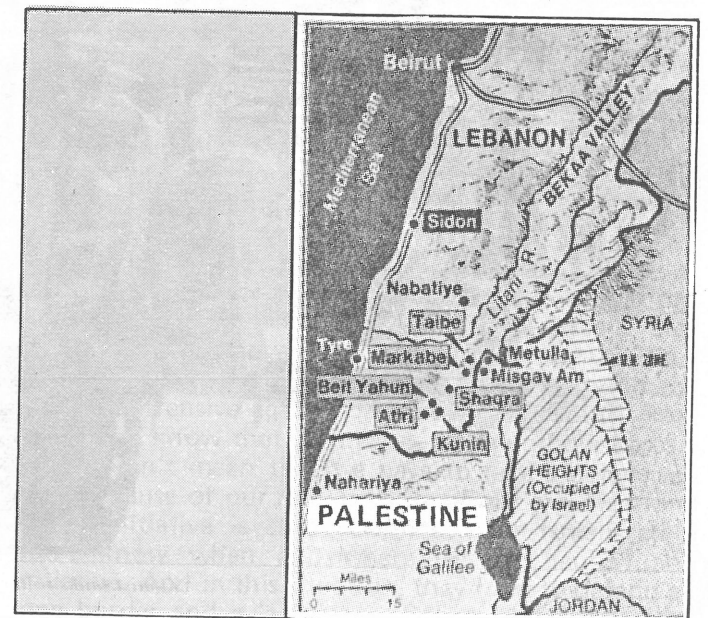
"The Israeli aims in southern Lebanon are related to the expansionist theory of Zionism. I believe that the Israelis have planned to take the land and to take the water resources in south Lebanon. Another goal is to strike at the Palestinian Resistance in Lebanon which is a continuous aim. With the continuous Israeli operations against south Lebanon, they want to create a social problem in front of the Palestinian revolution and also the Lebanese one, which actually

derives from the displacement of the people of the south to the north. They will be in need of housing, food and everything. The Israelis are trying to create a social problem for the PLO in this way."

— What was the significance of the August 19th Zionist invasion of the Beaufort Castle and Arnoun region in south Lebanon?

"Beaufort Castle and the Arnoun region are considered strategically as key terrain. Also it is considered key ground for military operations. This area leads directly to the Jezzine area. It means they are planning to occupy the castle and the Arnoun region and connect it with the Jezzine area. The population in that latter area are mostly Maronite Christians. So if they can, as they are planning, connect this region to the left, they will enlarge the border strip of Saad Haddad which will also increase the width of the west portion of the connecting land to Israel. They are trying to connect Marjayoun with Israel and actually up to the Jezzine region. If they ever succeeded in such an operation, they would enlarge and increase the safety belt which is now surrounding the borders of the occupied territories and also they would create a direct threat to the Shouf area, the Druze area. That means that they would threaten the main international road which runs between Beirut and Damascus which is the only main supply route for the Syrians and the Palestinian Revolution's army. This is what I believe is their constant aim in attacking this region.

— "As I mentioned, Beaufort Castle is also on key terrain. It provides a good observing position for anyone who's there, either the Palestinian Revolution



**"WE WILL CONTINUE OUR
MILITARY AND POLITICAL
STRUGGLE TO BUILD
AN INDEPENDENT STATE"**

or the Israelis. It is a dominant area from which one can obtain solid information even about the occupied territories. If you remember the speech of the Israeli intelligence chief two or three months ago on the occasion of the anniversary of one of the intelligence services — he mentioned the importance of this region. He said that this is the only place in the south where the Palestinian Revolution has bases which can provide the Palestinians with an observation point from which they can easily obtain information about the movement of Israeli forces. That is the importance of the Castle.

"Two months ago the Israelis made a concerted attempt to occupy this region. They directed a task force against us, a force which included the best infantry they have which is called the Golani Brigade. Along with military engineers and artillery, the



Zionist tanks rolling into south Lebanon in 1978

operation was supported by the airforce and helicopters. The battle lasted about seven hours. They failed to occupy these places. They failed to take it. Our fighters fought very well. But I believe that they will keep trying to take this region. I expect more fighting in that region. After that 7-hour battle, the region has witnessed two or three more operations. One of them was at Jarmag, which is close to the Castle. Just four or five days ago there was an air raid against that region.

"If they could roll up into that region and connect it with the Jezzine region, as I mentioned earlier, and the Shouf our main supply road would be threatened. This would also complete their designs for any future Israeli operation with the Phalangists up here. Information which we have received indicates that a joint operation might take place between the Phalangists in the north and the Israelis in the south. This will be some sort of accordion operation designed to encircle the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement and the western sector of Beirut. We are preparing our forces for such an operation and we leave it up to the future to see what will happen. The Phalangists have actually declared their mobilization. We also have declared our mobilization which is going very well in its first program. We have called up our students from overseas and they have joined this special training program. After this period of training they will join

our forces which will afterwards be in good condition and up to full strength. This is our goal. I think that the Phalangists have unified their forces and also their command after the clashes between them and the Chamounists. So in the future we will be confronting something new. We will be facing one command and we will be facing unified troops. It will be easier and speedier for them. This is what is actually going on.

"As you know, the Israelis are also using a cover for their operations against Lebanon. They are using Saad Haddad's forces as a cover to instill the public with the idea that the Lebanese are fighting the Palestinians. But I believe that public opinion is beginning to see the real fact that the Israelis are the ones fighting and that Saad Haddad is just a political cover. On our side, the Lebanese National Movement is taking on a major role in the fighting."

— To what extent are American weapons being used in the Zionist aggression against south Lebanon?

"The majority of Israeli weapons are American. Some of the American weapons used by the Israelis are up-to-date and have never been used before even by NATO forces or any country allied to the U.S. Some of these weapons have never even been used by American units. So Israel is receiving up-to-date and sophisticated weapons from the U.S. before the U.S. has put those weapons into service. They are trying to test these weapons. The Israelis are using cluster bombs and other anti-personnel weapons prohibited by UN conventions and other international bodies. They are testing this equipment in south Lebanon. We ask ourselves why? I believe that the U.S. still considers Israel as a major component in their national security. Israel is still an asset to American policy in the area."

— What effect has the war of attrition had on the Lebanese and Palestinian civilian population?

"If there has been any effect it has only been on the civilians because of the displacement from their villages and refugee camps. The PLO is trying very hard to help the civilians to stay in the south. We have a good program to help them rebuild their shelters and houses which have been destroyed by the continuous shelling. We are trying very hard to keep the people in the south. One of the things which is helping our program in the south is that the people know about the Israeli games. And they are stubborn; they want to stay on their land, in the villages and refugee camps. We hope that we will overcome these difficulties created by the Israelis. The people of the south are helping us in this program."

— How is the Zionist aggression in the south related to the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and especially the attacks against Palestinian leaders?

"In their aggression against the south, the Israelis



Zionist occupation of southern Lebanese village

are trying to put us on the defensive in the occupied land. The proficient Israeli military men know this cannot be done. There is one simple reason: we are not a regular army. Our fighters are scattered all over a large area. We're not seizing ground. We keep moving all the time. So they can't have the initiative and I believe their headquarters admit this fact. They can hit our bases, but they can't achieve a final victory. This is because of our organization and our mode of fighting. Our fighters in the occupied territories are self-contained. So they can continue. They can have the initiative on their side all the time. I believe the Israelis are trying to put us on the defensive in the occupied territories by mounting operations against our bases in south Lebanon. This is why they are making the war of attrition.

"There is one point: We told the Lebanese authorities that we would not launch any operation from Lebanese territory. I believe the Israelis are trying to take advantage of our promise to the Lebanese government and the Israelis are trying to take the offensive against our bases in the south. But they must know that we are free to defend our bases. That doesn't mean that we have to take a defensive role. Because of our role, because of our organization — the initiative is always with us. The Israelis still don't know when and where we will launch an initiative. And in this situation, they have to defend a long border and a large area. So we oblige them to



U.S. bombs dropped on south Lebanon

have a defensive role all the time. The operations are still in the hands of the Palestinian Revolution and we can use them at any moment."

— *How much is the stepped-up Israeli aggression connected to the political situation in the Middle East and the so-called Camp David "peace" process?*

"From the political side you notice that the PLO has made many fine achievements. Many countries recognize the PLO and this recognition is increasing all the time. The European countries have begun to talk about the just cause of the Palestinians. So do many other countries in the world. I hope that out of these achievements will be created a sensitive position for the Israelis — that they will find themselves in a dangerous position. The Israelis are trying to hit the PLO and its forces. They would like to create a new fact for the world: that there is no PLO. They would like to be able to say that the PLO forces are now damaged and there is nothing called the PLO. I believe that's the reason for the increasing operations, but they just can't do it."

— *The PLO and you personally have been involved in trying to end the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. What dangers do you think this conflict poses for the national liberation movements in the area, and in particular, for the PLO?*

"Our position toward the Iraqi and Iranian conflict is to stop the fighting because we don't see any profit for either one of them. Now you can see that the American forces are increasing in the area especially in the Indian Ocean. That means that the Middle East will be the area for a confrontation between superpowers. I believe that if this point is reached, all the area's problems will be side events. It will mean that the main conflict will take place between the superpowers in the area. For public opinion, the fighting that's taking place involves the oil problem. It is still the most sacred thing in the world. It is just like milk in the bottle for the European bloc, for the Western bloc in general. We

continue to work to end this fighting which does not do any good either for Iraq or Iran."

— *How does the election of Reagan and the signing of the Syrian-Soviet friendship treaty affect the PLO?*

"We don't depend much on the American administration whether they are the Republicans or the Democrats because we know that the American policy against the Palestinian people is still static. They are against Palestinian rights. The Democrats and the Republicans keep mentioning all the time that they will not recognize the PLO. Now the Republicans are dealing with the Palestinian question as a refugee question. But we have achieved some improvement in the eyes of American public opinion. I believe that this connection and these ties, and acquainting the American people with our question more and more, will bring achievements. As for the American administration I doubt any progress. I believe that they will stick to their policy against our people and against our cause."

"As for the recent Soviet-Syrian treaty, I consider it a normal treaty as have been signed by the Soviets and other countries in the area. It poses no threat to any other country. Syria is in need of such a treaty. As we know, relations between Arab countries in the area are not so good. Syria and the PLO are the only two powers facing Israel at this time. I believe that this treaty will increase Syrian power to stand against the Israeli aggression in the area."

— *What do you see as the major achievements of the Palestinian Revolution in 1980 and also of the Fatah Congress held this past summer?*

"I believe that a great achievement that we made, and especially in Fatah in our Congress, is that we proved to our people and to other nations that we do have democracy in our organization. We solve all of our problems in a democratic way. I believe that this is the best achievement, because it will increase the trust of our people for the Revolution in general."

"The best achievement for the PLO was the increase in political recognition. More countries and other peoples are gaining an intimate knowledge of the Palestinian question. I believe that this is a good achievement and that this will help our struggle in the future."

— *What do you see as the prospects for the Palestinian Revolution in the coming year?*

"The Palestinian Revolution will continue its struggle to achieve its objectives in building an independent Palestinian state. This will be accompanied by the escalation of our military operations in the occupied land and it will increase our political movement in foreign countries to gain more public support. I think this is the general plan for the coming year."

LARGEST ISRAELI RAID ON SOUTH LEBANON IN MONTHS

On the night of December 18-19, Israeli troops estimated at over 500 attacked Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces positions north of the Litani River in the Nabatiyeh region of south Lebanon. During an artillery barrage accompanying this latest Zionist aggression, Syrian troops positions came under fire near the village of Rihan. Three Syrian soldiers were killed in the attack.

Commenting on the Israeli raid, the Palestinian news agency WAFA's military editor wrote that the Israeli attackers had planned to launch a 15-20 minute surprise attack on the Joint Forces' positions, but they were surprised when they fell under the fire of the Joint Forces, who waited until they came within small arms range.

WAFA stated: "The enemy admitted suffering a number of injured and one dead, while the commander of the raiding force, interviewed by Radio Israel, said the Palestinian Commandos had confused his men, a confusion made worse by the wounded, he added. A careful reading of these statements indicates that the enemy, known for his reluctance to admit casualties, has suffered severe losses."

DETAILS OF THE BATTLE

WAFA summed up the details of the battle as follows: "At 11:20 P.M. on the night of Thursday-Friday 18-19, our advanced positions reported Israeli aircraft activity over Marjayoun and along the northern borders of occupied Palestine. Orders were immediately issued to our positions in Aishiyeh, Mahmoudiyeh, and Beaufort Castle to stand on alert. At 11:30 P.M., 600 soldiers from the Golani brigade were landed by helicopters in front of Aishiyeh. At 11:40 P.M., our advanced positions waited for a large number of soldiers to take up positions and then opened fire on them with artillery and hand grenades, depriving them of the element of surprise, and of the initiative. The battle which ensued took place in a circle with an approximately 20 meter-diameter,



Dejected Zionist troops return from December 19 raid.

during which our fighters were able to confuse and paralyze the raiders. The enemy commanders were thus forced to change their tactics so as to advance further in a battle which was dominated by our fighters in a position in Aishiyeh.

A commander of an advanced position told WAFA that wireless conversation between Israeli soldiers and officers were intercepted revealing that the officers pushed their men to come under our fire. He added: "When we opened our machine-gun fire on them, I expected that the soldiers would re-organize themselves, but what happened is that some of them advanced while many others retreated. We let them move forward to some positions. I actually saw one officer kick a soldier, ordering him to advance. So, I waited until all of his six men came within gunshot and then I pulled the trigger of my machine gun. The six soldiers and the officer were hit directly, and one of my commandos threw a number of hand-grenades in their direction. After that, I heard no more shots but I clearly heard cries for help."

At 3:50 A.M., the enemy tried to withdraw and evacuate its wounded, but the disarray that overcame them meant that they had to remain on the battlefield until 5:30 A.M.. Clear evidence of the disarray of the Israeli forces lays in the fact that helicopters equipped with searchlights made at least fifteen flights over the battlefield to illuminate the scene and boost the morale of the soldiers.

At the same time, Israeli long-range artillery opened up a heavy and indiscriminate barrage of fire on Aishiyeh, Rihan, Mahmoudieh and Jarmaq, with some rockets even falling on Sidon. During this heavy



The results of Zionist aggression on the southern Lebanese civilian population

bombardment, the enemy was finally and with great difficulty able to evacuate its casualties.

At 4:00 A.M., the battle took on a new development when the long-range support artillery of the Joint Forces from various positions, along with artillery from the position raided, began a direct and concentrated bombardment of the road used by the

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ISRAELI AGGRESSION

The UN Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, expressed on December 19 his anxiety over the latest Israeli attacks in South Lebanon, saying that these Israeli attacks were pre-planned in coordination with the militias of Saad Haddad directly after the renewal of the mandate of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL). He added that prior to the latest attacks, UNIFIL observers had noted intensive Israeli warplane activity in the Nabatiyah and al-Khardali regions.

attackers who had started to pull back. The retreating columns suffered heavy losses in this shelling.

ZIONIST AGGRESSION TO BE MET BY RESISTANCE

The Israeli attack represented a dangerous new escalation in the area in attempting to drag both Syria and the Joint Forces into an all-out confrontation. But the Zionists got their hands burnt in this provocation. On December 20, Syrian artillery hurled 800-1000 shells at Israeli troops concentrations inside the Haddad border strip destroying large amounts of military equipment.

As we go to press, tension still reigns in south Lebanon as the Zionist aggressive provocations continue. On December 31, Syrian and Israeli jets were engaged in a dog fight in the sky over south Lebanon. 2 Syrian Mig-21s were downed, but the Syrian pilots parachuted to safety.

Both the Syrian government and the command of the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces have put the Zionists on notice that further Israeli aggression against south Lebanon will be met with determined resistance.

FEDAYEENS CONFRONTING THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION:

"WE FIGHT FOR PEACE IN THE LAND OF PEACE — PALESTINE"

The victories that our people have achieved under the leadership of PLO, their sole legitimate representative, as well as the broad world recognition the PLO has acquired, together with the broad mass uprising in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupation, led the Zionist enemy to escalate its acts of aggression against the Palestinian Revolution and the Lebanese National Movement in Lebanon. The Zionist attacks have extended all along the Lebanese coast, from Tyre up to Beirut. Despite the barbaric bombing of many civilian targets, Israel has so far failed to achieve anything. Chairman Arafat, the General

Commander of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution has called for a general mobilisation of the Palestinian people to confront this. Our leadership realised the fact that only the Lebanese-Palestinian Joint Forces are defending the whole of the Arab nation, and that this requires us to depend first upon our own potentials.

"Palestine" recently visited our heroic fighters in their positions in southern Lebanon where they daily confront the Israeli war machinery and aggression. They put us in the picture both militarily and politically.

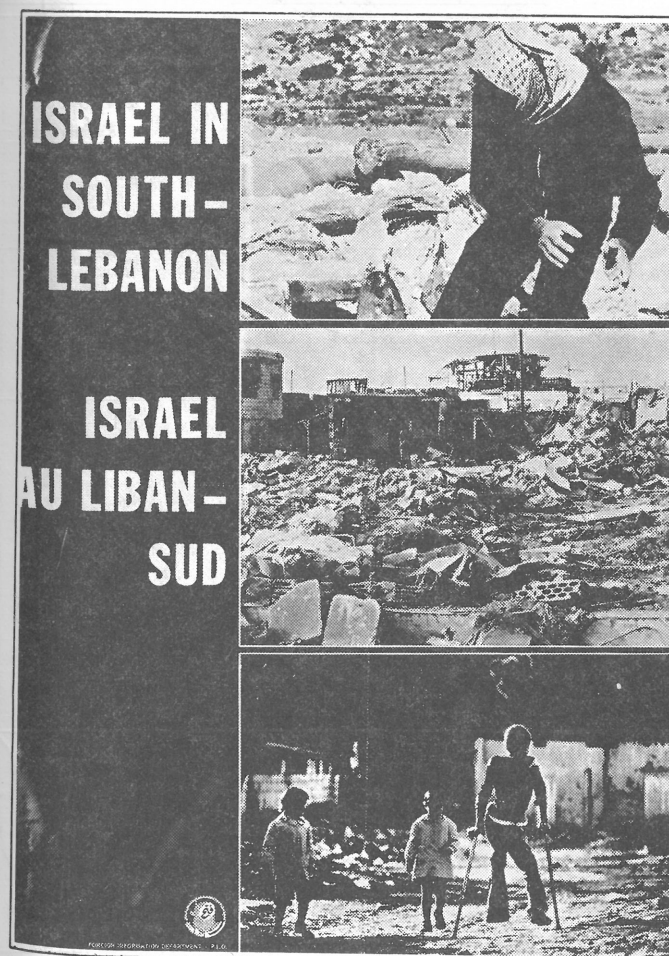
Abu Nabil:

"Although we live here far away from our families, we do not feel isolated. Our life here in the military bases is like living among our families and relatives. We are proud of being on the front lines confronting the Zionist enemy.

"Our experience has taught us plenty of things, mainly that our enemy will not miss any opportunity to strike against us indiscriminately. So we have to be on alert every minute. This situation has led to a complete cohesion between the Joint Forces and the Lebanese and Palestinian masses who consider us their arm and shield. We fully know that without the people we are like fish outside water. We are committed to the cause of the masses which represent, our strategic depth. Our relations are based on love, cohesion and a common fate, for we fight for the same targets; eliminating oppression and liberating the occupied lands. The masses in southern Lebanon are aware of the expansionist ambitions of the Zionist entity. They offer us what we need because they consider us their sons and brothers.

"The citizens in southern Lebanon were denied their essential rights to live in dignity. That was due to the general official Lebanese policy which tended to leave them suffering under Israeli oppression and Lebanese feudal exploitation. Their lives were ones of fear and despair.

"With the emergence of the Palestinian Revolution



◀
**"WE FIGHT FOR PEACE
 IN THE LAND OF PEACE
 — PALESTINE"**

and the Lebanese National Movement the masses could resist the Israeli occupation and protect the achievements of the Joint Forces. They fully believe that we all fight the same enemy and that no antagonistic force can affect our unity. This is really what tightens our relations as a Palestinian Revolution with a Lebanese depth — fighting for the dignity of the Arab nation and all oppressed people the world over."

"This relation becomes stronger and firmer following each raid carried out by the Zionists and their agents against civilian positions. The mass morale becomes higher and more determined to resist the aggression. So far the Zionist manipulations to isolate us from the masses resulted in a complete fiasco. Our very existence in these positions demonstrates the

failure of the Zionist enemy to occupy south Lebanon, to liquidate the Joint Forces and to blow up the mutual confidence between us and the masses. The daily visits and meetings with the masses and fighters incarnates our cohesion and belief in being one family."

Majdi:

"Zionist ambitions are not confined to south Lebanon. Israel wants to bring the whole of the Arab world under its complete domination whether through direct occupation or political and economic dependence. Israel does not want to strike against the Palestinians alone, since the Zionists want to establish "Greater Israel" from the Nile to the Euphrates. To achieve this, they do not distinguish between a Lebanese, a Palestinian or a Syrian. For this reason the broadening of the front against the Zionist schemes is very essential. The Israeli war machine failed to liquidate the Joint Forces during its wholesale invasion of south Lebanon in March 1978. This victory we achieved gave a new momentum to the struggle of our masses in the occupied territories. We also notice that when we become stronger here, the resistance there becomes stronger and vice versa. Israel and its imperialist patrons think that they can



Fighters of the Joint Palestinian - Lebanese national forces: the same fate in confronting Zionist aggression

overcome us by means of increasing U.S. military support to the Zionist entity. We remind them of what happened in Vietnam. Moreover, evidence show, that this will help only in aggravating Israel's problems. We are sure of our victory."

Ahmed:

"A realistic view of the events shows that Israel realizes that the UN Peacekeeping Forces (UNIFIL) are unable to prevent Israel from carrying out its aggressions against Lebanese territory. The Israelis are receiving huge amounts of military hardware from the western countries — mainly from the U.S.A. President-elect Reagan's promises of funnelling more weapons to Israel has made it prepared for further aggressions, as well as being more intransigent than ever.

"These promises have increased Israel's appetite for further expansion at the expense of Arab territories. Israel is trying to grasp the opportunity to expand the border strip which it controls under the guise of its agent Haddad. For this end it has increased its military presence in that area in the hope of creating a Maronite state along the Israeli model. This will be a preface to dividing Lebanon into sectarian statelets and hence dismember the whole of the Arab world on this style."

Abu Gazi:

"In the past, Israel used to launch surprise raids against our positions as well as civilian targets to confuse us and weaken the morale of the masses. Recently they used the Golani Brigade in their aggression against our positions in Arnoun, Jarmaq, Beaufort Castle as well as in Aishiya and Mahmoudyeh in an attempt to crush our fighters. Then what was the result: they were defeated though Israel used to frighten the Arab countries with this brigade. Now they are using large numbers of troops in their attacks to occupy this strategic area which is close to Syria. For the first time, the Zionist military leaders admit the strength and awareness of the Joint Forces. Our fighters took them by surprise. To cover up their defeat the Israelis launched air raids against civilian positions in order to give way to its hysteric aggressiveness. But as usual those raids did nothing. Israel was mistaken when it thought, as well as its agent Sadat did, that they could impose the 'self-rule' scheme on our people. On the contrary our masses have more strongly rallied around the PLO."

Riad:

"In order to achieve its ambition of creating sectarian statelets under its control, Israel is taking the lead in allotting roles among its agents in south Lebanon as well as those fascist right wing militias in Mount Lebanon. The fascist provocations are always linked with and related to Israeli moves in south Lebanon. Usually they precede or follow Israel's attacks against Lebanon. For local and international considerations, Israel sometimes tries to put the blame for those attacks on Haddad's militias. Can Israel deceive the world community for ever? Every-

one should know that Haddad is no more than an Israeli protege and can not decide anything.

"Earlier this year the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) adopted a resolution to eliminate the fedayeen as a step towards bringing the PLO to its knees by accepting the "self-rule" conspiracy. The Israeli chief-of-staff confirmed that such attacks would not stop until the Palestinians are completely exterminated. What happened — we are still here, just some hundred metres from the so called 'Israeli borders'. We know that Israel tends to divert the attention of its settlers away from the internal problems Israel is facing. Israel's military expenditures syphon off 40% of its budget. Inflation is running at over 130% and its economic situation is deteriorating. The attacks against Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages cannot solve anything. Israel's racist nature and aggression are not only directed against the Arabs, but also against the Sephardic Jews who live in slums. It is not Begin alone who is responsible for Israel's economic crisis. The Labor Party has carried out the same policies. Israel has to realize that these attacks cannot weaken the Palestinian Resistance, but on the contrary give the Revolution new blood. Israel cannot deceive its settlers forever. They have to recognize that they can only live in peace if Israel gives up its policy of oppression and expansionism. Of course, nobody can predict precisely when this will happen.

Hamzeh:

"Israel tries to isolate each Arab country in the event that there is a war. I am a Syrian and I realize that the Palestinian cause is not confined to Palestinians only. It is an Arab and a Muslim cause. For this, I am proud to be amongst the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters. I was a Syrian soldier. I participated in the June 1967 and October 1973 wars. We were besieged during the October War in the Mt. Hermon area for six hours. We were able to break that siege due to the assistance we received from the Palestinian commandos. We were short of food and ammunition. The Palestinian fighters gave us everything.

"It was a great pleasure for me to meet with my old friends in one of the Palestinian military bases. I told them that I consider the Palestine cause as my own and that I came to join their ranks.

"The Israeli enemy has illusions about its might. They think that they can do whatever they want. They don't want to admit the fact that U.S. military aid cannot provide tranquility for them. On the other hand, some Israelis have a gloomy view of Israel's future. They admit that peace will not prevail unless Israel ceases to be a militarist and racist entity.

"We fight as a sacred duty. We fight for peace in the land of peace — Palestine. We have two souls in one body. Our revolution incarnates true love and true justice.

"Our victories are true victories, not propaganda



Lebanese and Palestinians masses in south Lebanon demonstrate against the Zionist aggression

ones. The Israeli Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur resigned when his troops failed during the eight day war in March 1978. Israeli Defense Minister Weizman also resigned. Maybe he sensed that the Camp David accords are totally unacceptable to the Palestinian people. He even was unable to find one Palestinian to support the U.S.-Israeli-Sadat schemes in the area. All the Israeli parties are in harmony concerning Israel's expansionist and aggressive policy. All of them want to wipe out the Palestinian militant identity and cement the Zionist occupation."

Abu Assef:

"We here in the Assifa forces are aware of the importance of training fighters. To confront the Zionist-imperialist enemy, we have to increase our military potential. Military training means acquiring the tactics of guerilla warfare as well as that of traditional warfare. The enemy trains its troops as well. We learn lessons from our experience and then we put the lessons into practice. We should always be on alert in order to foil the enemy's schemes and tactics. The enemy does its best to prevent us from training and developing our cadres both politically and militarily. In spite of all the difficulties we try to adapt ourselves as well as our weaponry to all combat circumstances."

Major Kaed:

"It was not a surprise that the U.S. increased its military and economic aid to Israel following the emergence of the Iranian revolution which has abolished one of the main strategic bastions of imperialism. Israel is not only a protege of U.S. imperialism, but an integral part of it. For this very reason, U.S. imperialism has aggravated the situation in the Middle

East. Sadat has to realize that despite the huge concession he has made to the Israelis, he would not be able to replace Israel within the overall U.S. strategy in the Middle East. This is because Israel is and will continue to be the main asset for U.S. imperialism in the area. Israel has transformed south Lebanon into a field for experimenting with its most sophisticated weapons including F-15 fighter planes and modern missiles used against our Lebanese and Palestinian people. For us, we say, let them again learn the lesson of what happened in Vietnam. The heinous massacres led to the victory of the revolutionaries.

"Concerning recent U.S. maneuvers and the so-called 'Jordanian option', our stand is that only the battlefield is the place where American imperialism can impose its conspiracies, if they can. American imperialism has taken the lead against the aspirations of our people for self-determination, their right to return to their homes and their right to establish their own independent state. Whoever is U.S. president will not change the fact that the Americans will only change their policy when their interests in the region are affected. All U.S. presidents have expressed their partiality to the Zionist state.

"After such a long experience (more than 30 years) whether the Labor Party or Likud was in power, the facts stand unchanged. Israel wants to occupy more Arab territories. We fight in order to protect our people who are subjected to daily Israeli oppression in the occupied territories and outside. Only those who fought for the Palestinian cause, namely the PLO, can speak on behalf of the Palestinian people."

MEETING BASSAM SHAK'A

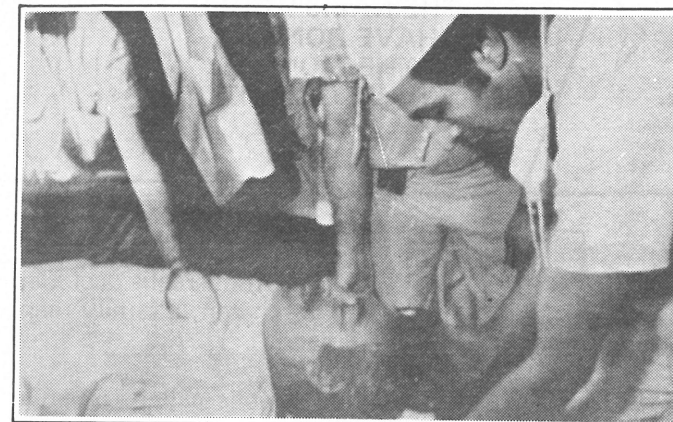
**"THE NAZIS WOULD
HAVE DONE SO;
THE ZIONISTS
HAVE DONE IT"**

(The following report by Dick Geldart and Andy Brooks was first published in the British newspaper *New Worker* on September 9, 1980.) They met with Nablus Mayor Bassam Shak'a during his recent visit to London where he received medical treatment.

"He was in my arms. I was watching his blood flow from his body. I couldn't believe he was alive. Everything seemed to have stopped." The speaker was the wife of Bassam Shak'a, the Mayor of Nablus in occupied Palestine, the man who still lives to bear witness to their crime. As we sat talking in a comfortably furnished apartment high above the London streets only an unmistakable tension in the eyes of the woman opposite us seemed to make real the horrors of which she spoke. A moment later, a door opened from an adjacent room and the proof walked in. Both of us broke out in an involuntary round of applause as Bassam Shak'a came through that door, his body broken but his indomitable spirit filling the room. A stick in each hand, he moved towards us on strange little wooden half-legs, the props on which he must learn to walk before full artificial limbs can be fitted.

"I walked a bit without these yesterday," he said, waving one of the sticks in the air preparatory to transferring it to the other hand and offering us a warm, firm, friendly hand-shake. 'It hurt a bit, so I'm back with these today,' he added, 'nevertheless the doctor says I'm doing better than any patient he's ever had with my kind of injuries.'

From anyone else, it might have sounded like bravado but from this twinkling-eyed man with his broad grin and crazy stumps it sounded like no more than a statement of the inevitable truth. Of course Bassam Shak'a had lived despite everything, of course he had started to move around in record time you just had to look at him, sense his confidence, his



Bassam Shak'a's colleague, Mayor Karim Khalaf wounded in simultaneous bomb blast

belief in the justice of the Palestinian cause, to know that it was all true and perfectly natural.

At the moment when the bomb went off in his car and blew his legs away, the telephone at his home was suddenly cut off, making it impossible to call a doctor. His twelve-and-a-half year old son ran to the hospital, jumping along roof-tops.

That unsubtle twist of horror seemed natural too as we sat with the Shak'as. The Nazis would have done that, so of course the Zionists had done it.

It seemed inevitable too that Mrs. Shak'a was telling no more than the truth when she recalled the day when 8 year-olds from a local school were taken by police to a prison and made to watch men being beaten. In case the message hadn't got through to the class, the police then took sticks and struck the little ones on their private parts.

MESSAGE OF RESISTANCE

Bassam Shak'a's message is that the message has got through, but it's not the one that the police were and are trying to give. It is a message that has filled Shak'a's life, the message of resistance.

As he told us, he was active even before his eighteenth birthday, which fell in that fateful year for Palestine, 1948. Referring to those early years, he told us that, "I was one of the generation that believed in a more representative political life. I found myself in trouble with the British authorities several times."

After 1948, with the West Bank incorporated into Jordan, he continued that struggle, now seeking something more than the rule of the Hashemite Dynasty.

"In 1957, I went underground and was in hiding thereafter for two-and-a-half years, then becoming a refugee in Syria and, after the break-up of the United Arab Republic, in Egypt.

"Eventually, there was an amnesty and I returned

THE NAZIS WOULD
HAVE DONE SO;
THE ZIONIST
HAVE DONE IT

home to Nablus. In 1967, when the Israelis occupied the West Bank, I was a private citizen, a family man, but very much an involved man.

"From the very start the Israelis called the areas they had occupied, 'the liberated territories'. That alone should have told the world they had no intention of future withdrawal.

"An independent Committee of National Guidance had been created shortly before the Israeli occupation and I was involved, as an independent Socialist, with the Committee in Nablus. We managed to keep going for a while but, after two years, through provocations, through deportations and through other measures, the Israelis had managed to kill the Committee organisations throughout the occupied areas.

"At the time of the occupation, the general feeling was one of deep shock. The occupied areas had made no preparations for armed action but there was a deep feeling that action was needed."

MASS SUPPORT FOR PLO

It was against this background, Bassam Shak'a explained, that the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which had already been operating in the West Bank, came to be a major force.

"Immediately after the occupation," he said, "all the trade unions issued a resolution in the PLO's favour. They were the first to resolve in this way."

In Nablus itself, the PLO's activity really began to

take off at this time. "Growth came with the growing mass recognition of the PLO's leadership."

The telephone rang and Bassam Shak'a moved to answer it. For a man without legs, perched in a wheelchair, the effort was obvious. He replied, nevertheless, in a firm voice, giving short, decisive, answers. "Next question," he asked us at the end of the call, for all the world like a fit man sitting at a desk.

We wanted to know how the 1973 War had affected people in the occupied territories and how they had reacted to Sadat's treasonable dealings with the Zionists. Bassam Shak'a had the answers.

"At the start of the war, there were feelings of hope as the Arab armies proved they could withstand the Israelis. There was hope that the outcome of the war would lead to the realisation of Palestinian rights.

"But the political outcome of the war was the very reverse of those hopes. Israel, in fact, got more than her leaders could ever have dreamed possible.

"When Sadat visited Jerusalem, the visit did come as something of a surprise to most people in the West Bank but the surprise was of a limited kind, limited by the knowledge that nothing good could result."

ZIONISM IS BASED ON EXPANSIONISM

"Zionism is based on expansionism and aggression. There were no indications from anyone, including the Israelis, that anything of a positive kind could be achieved. Begin and his backers knew what they wanted from the talks. Sadat was there as a beggar.

"These things, however, are less important than the principal outcome of the occupation and its continuation. That outcome is the basis that has been laid for mass political resistance. Experience of the occupation has strengthened the popular will to resist."

How, we wanted to know, has this popular will been reflected politically? Where does the Palestine National Guidance Council fit in?

"The Council," said Bassam Shak'a, "has greatly helped our struggles in the period since Camp David. It brings together all the organizations — trade unions, women's youth, all social groups — and unites both Muslims and Christians in the occupied lands. The National Council grew from our increased political consciousness. The Zionists know its



Karim Khalaf's car after bomb blast

strength and that is why they are now trying to achieve its destruction.

"Look at the legal measures they are now taking, and the clearly illegal measures too. Two Mayors have been deported, while they have attempted to murder three others, myself included. Their three intended victims are being prevented from meeting their electors, we are banned from speaking to the press, even by telephone, we are forbidden to issue any statement.

"The similarities with the South African system of 'banning orders' is clear, except that, in my view, the Zionists are being yet more severe than the South Africans because they feel even more immediately threatened."

So what of the future, we asked, Where do the Palestinians go from here?

"The road to liberation is one well-known and proved by history. It is a road of struggle, of belief by a people in their rights, of careful, steady work to create the circumstances for victory.

"Our people have maintained their unity and their leadership, they have gained wide recognition for their representative body, the PLO, which now even has observer status at the United Nations. Resolutions and acts of support are coming at international level. And, in addition to all this, they maintain the armed struggle. I tell you, we will gain our rights."

Having met Bassam Shak'a, felt the popular will that inspires him and has enabled him to survive, neither of us doubt that the victory is certain.



Bassam Shak'a attends mass meeting in United Kingdom

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

ZIONIST KNESSET COMMITTEE TO BECOME PART OF U.S. SENATE

In early December U.S. Senator Charles Percy allegedly told officials in the Soviet Union that he supported an independent Palestinian state. Is this a harbinger of what Reagan's policy will be toward the crisis in the Middle East? Not likely. After Moshe Arens, from Begin's Likud party and chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, met with Percy in Washington, he announced on December 10 that his Knesset committee and the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold joint yearly meetings alternating between Washington and Jerusalem. Percy is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This is the true harbinger of Reagan's policy in the Middle East: not only does this raise Zionist-U.S. relations to new heights of connivance unprecedented in America's foreign relations with other countries, but the meetings to be held in Jerusalem will give de facto recognition by the U.S. of the Zionist annexation of the city.

GUSH EMUNIM TERRORIST RELEASED FROM PRISON EARLY

The American-born Gush Emunim terrorist, Meir Kahane, was released 6 months early from prison on December 12. *Yediot Aharonot* reported that Begin intervened personally to have Kahane released early. Kahane was imprisoned for leading rampaging settler fanatics through Palestinian towns in the West Bank breaking into

Palestinian homes and destroying their property. Kahane's Gush Emunim group in cooperation with the Israeli army are strongly suspected of planting the bomb blasts in which Bassam Shaka'a lost his legs and Karim Khalaf lost one of his feet.

ZIONIST-APARTHEID TIES GROW TIGHTER

With the Zionist economy deep into a severe economic crisis, the Zionist entity moved in December to solidify its financial links with the racist regime in South Africa. South African Finance Minister Owen Horwood paid a special visit to Israel in the second week of December to finalize substantive financial agreements with Zionist Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz and top Israeli officials. After meeting with Zionist cabinet ministers, Horwood was asked that the South African regime provide Israel with \$250 million in economic aid. Also a new standing committee of top officials from both countries will meet yearly and more often if necessary to coordinate the intensified relations between the two countries. The *Jerusalem Post* of December 14 listed other agreements discussed: there is to be an "increase in the ceiling for South African investments in Israel, up

from \$50 million to \$60 million... South African investors will be allowed to conduct transactions in Israel according to Pretoria's official rate of exchange for the rand, which is 30% higher than its world rate of exchange, so that they will get 30% more...for their rand investments than they do in other countries...Up to \$25 million in Israel Bonds may now be sold in South Africa."

In a joint press conference given by Horwood and Hurvitz on December 13, the *Post* reported that Hurvitz proudly proclaimed that "he refuses to play down Israel's relations with South Africa. Israel is now benefiting from seeds sown several years ago towards improving these relations and there is no point in attempting to hush them up."

THE ZIONIST ECONOMIC CRISIS: HOW DEEP?

1980 was one of the worst years ever for the Zionist economy. The results of a joint study conducted by Zionist private industry and the Histadrut and reported in the *Jerusalem Post* of December 11 detailed the toll that aggressive military spending is taking on overall industrial production. Industrial production dropped 5% in 1980. The number of workers in industry

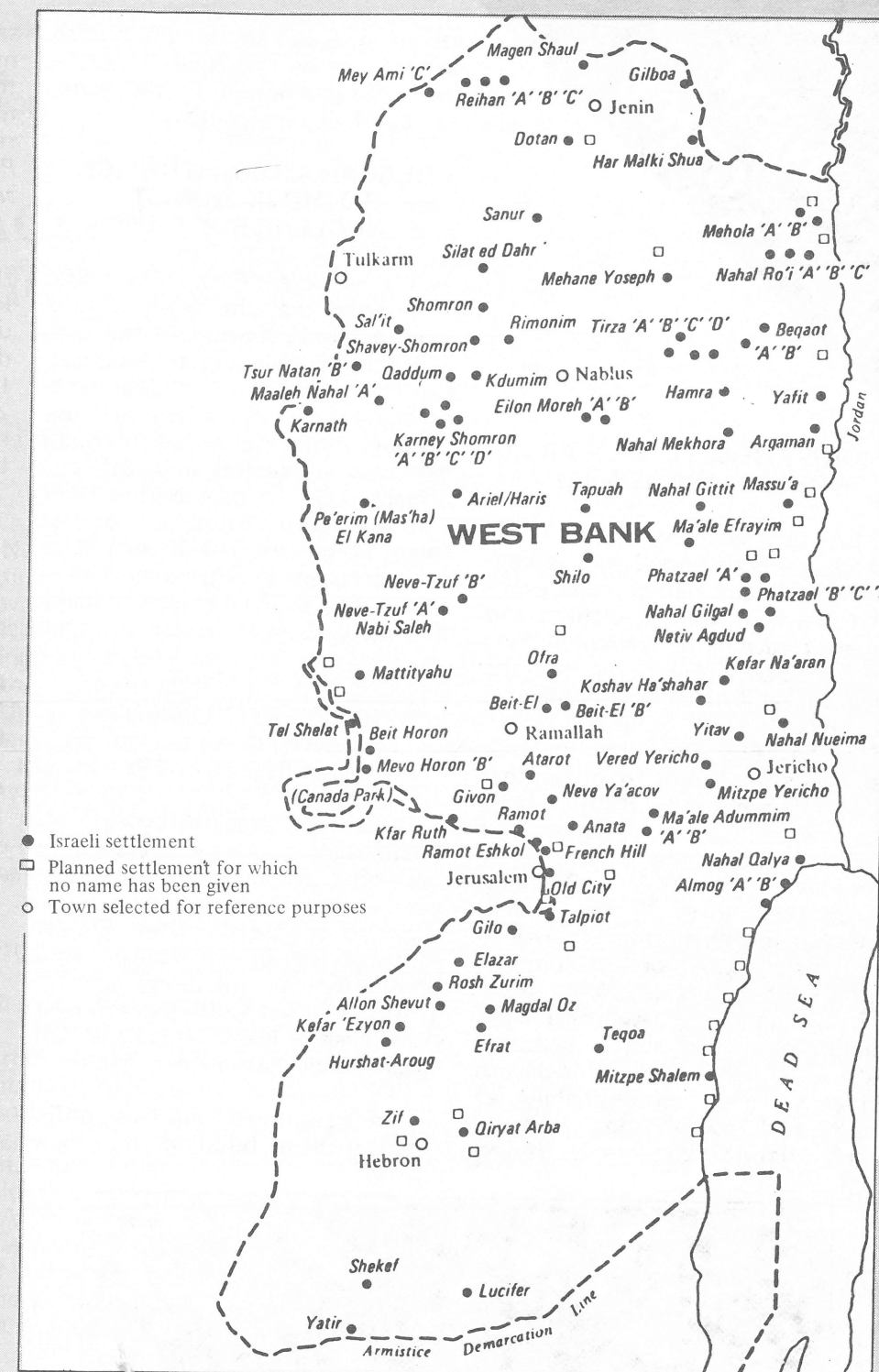
dropped by 8%. Overall productivity dropped 1.5%. Finally, the growth of investments in industry dropped to a negative 20% over the previous four years. With Zionist military spending reaching new heights every year, nothing is likely to stop the downward spiral in other sectors of the economy no matter how many billions are pumped into the Zionist economy by Israel's U.S. sponsor.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION READY TO FURTHER GREASE ZIONIST MILITARY MACHINE

On December 19, Reagan's newly appointed chief of the Pentagon gave an exclusive interview to a correspondent for the Israeli army radio. *Agence France Presse* reported Reagan's old crony, Casper Weinberger, as saying that "the United States has some budgetary difficulties, but Israel will figure at the head of the list of privileged countries to benefit from American economic aid." As for U.S. Middle East policy in general, Weinberger stated that the U.S. under Reagan will "intensify our efforts to face the Soviet bloc in the interests of the United States and not just as a function of human rights, by notably accentuating our presence in Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia."

SKYROCKETING EMIGRATION FROM ISRAEL

The London *Times* of December 16 reported that Israel is witnessing "one of the highest rates of Jewish emigration in the country's history." In only the first 10 months of 1980, "33,000 more people left the country than entered it ... more than double the comparable figure for last year." The *Times* noted that "the true emigration rate is hard to estimate because of the traditional unwillingness of many disgruntled Jews to admit that they are leaving for good." ...The extent of the population drain is only just beginning to emerge from official statistics, which are now often published with great embarrassment and little fanfare. They are regarded by observers as a severe blow for a



Zionist settlements established, planned or under construction in the West Bank

country largely built by the influx of Jews from abroad."

The same is not true for the Palestinian population. The more than half million Palestinians who live within the 1948 borders have a birth rate which is 2.5 times that for Jews. There is likewise a high birth rate for more than 1.2 million

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. If the unlikely situation were to occur that the Zionist occupation continued, Palestinians would form the majority of the population in less than 20 years.



Meir Kahane whipping up Zionist racism after his release from prison

ZIONISM IN PRACTICE

ZIONIST GENETIC RESEARCH WORTHY OF THE NAZIS

In Nazi Germany, genetic research was conducted in the concentration camps to try and prove that Germans were a distinct and superior race. The *Jerusalem Post* of December 15 reports that the head of Tel Aviv University Medical School's human genetics department has been spending the past ten years in trying to prove that Jews are genetically distinct from the peoples of their country of origin. Some of the 10-year study were listed by the *Post*. One supposed preliminary finding is supposed to demonstrate that African Jews have more in common with white Europeans than black African people: "Jews of Libyan origin have far fewer blatantly African genes...than non-Jewish Libyans, and approximately as many as Europeans do." It is unlikely that this kind of racist "re-



Pre-fab housing being transported through Nablus to next settlement

search" will add anything to human science, rather it will make a further contribution to the bankruptcy of Zionist ideology.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO AID IN ZIONIST NUCLEAR BUILD-UP

The *Jerusalem Post* of December 1 reported that the newly elected Reagan administration in the U.S. will consider relaxing an American ban on the export of nuclear technology and give the Westinghouse Corporation a go ahead to build two nuclear reactors in Israel. The project was first proposed in 1977 and was then estimated to cost some \$4 billion. The Zionist state has consistently refused to cooperate in international efforts to make the Middle East a nuclear-freezone.

ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS NOW CALLED "HOUSING ESTATES"

Progressive Israeli attorney Leah Tsemel held a press conference on December 26 in the International Red Cross Headquarters in Jerusalem to expose the latest Zionist confiscations of Palestinian land near Jerusalem. The Zionist government has seized 4,000 dunums near the villages of Nabi Samuel and Beit Aksa outside Jerusalem.

The Palestinian land was confiscated for the building of a new

settlement. Since the Begin government has hypocritically boasted that the last sites for new settlements in the West Bank have already been chosen, the *Jerusalem Post* has reported that this new settlement is a "housing estate."

On Christmas, the Zionist authorities blew up three houses belonging to Palestinians in Beit Aksa under the pretext that the buildings did not have construction permits. It was not explained what right the Zionist authorities had to demolish houses built long before 1967, as these were.

PLANS FOR 48 NEW SETTLEMENTS

The Israeli daily, *Yediot Aharnot* reported on December 23 that the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture is planning to establish 48 new settlements and develop others into agricultural projects producing vegetables and fruits for export. The cost is expected to be approximately IL 6 1/2 billion.

BRIGITTE SCHULZ AND THOMAS REUTER RELEASED AFTER FIVE YEARS OF ORDEAL

On December 23 the Israeli authorities set free and deported two West Germans, Brigitte Schulz and Thomas Reuter. The two West German youths had been kidnapped in Kenya in January 1976 by Israeli secret service agents. They were then held in secrecy and tortured for more than one year in Israel with the Israeli government even denying any knowledge about their whereabouts. The case exemplified a total contempt for any concept of human and civil rights and all international rules of law, caused wide-spread indignation and protest all over the world. At a first press conference on their arrival in Frankfurt, the two West Germans gave a brief account of their sufferings caused by the Israeli state gangsters and again denied all the charges raised by the Israelis against them which have never been clarified in public. Brigitte Schulz and Thomas Reuter had been tried and convicted in camera by an Israeli military tribunal.

EXCERPTS FROM ISRAELI PRESS 1980:

ISRAELI RACISM IN PRACTICE

On November 10, 1975, the U.N. General Assembly issued its resolution condemning Zionism as a form of racism. The Zionists all over the world and the governments of the U.S. and West Europe allied to Israel always feign their indignation about this public expression of simple truth. However, the following extracts, gathered from the Israeli press in 1980 and which we publish here without any changes, give irrefutable proof of the deeply racist basis of the Israeli state and society. As the press excerpts reveal, this fundamental racism does not spare even those Arabs who try to comply with the terms set up the Jewish *Herrenmenschen* race.

"DIRTY ARAB, GET OUT"

Al-Ha'mishmar 13. 7 1980 by Gabriel Stern

"Rehavia is one of Jerusalem's most respectable, most enlightened and nicest neighbourhoods. Here live Ministers, professors, humanitarians, public figures and the mayor of the city, Teddy Kollek. Leon Savir, a retired Israeli diplomat, whom I met on my way to work on Gaza Road, told me that he had observed a shocking act against an Arab flower seller in the same street. I moved to investigate his story, directing my steps to the small shop belonging to George Namer, who had set up business a while ago in what had been a shoe repair shop in the courtyard of number 36.

"The young man is about thirty years old. He was born in united East Jerusalem. He received me politely, but was somewhat embarrassed. I looked around, but could see nothing. Was this the shop on the front of which nasty things had been scrawled, I asked, now feeling equally embarrassed. I admit that I could not bring myself to quote the actual words, and neither could he.

"Yes it was, he replied in good Hebrew, speaking quietly and without any anger. He told me the history of his shop. For five years he had been

employed by the flower shop across the road. Later relations between him and his boss had deteriorated. George had felt both entitled and obliged to protect his source of income. He claims that his competitors started a campaign against him, encouraging his Rehavia customers to boycott him "because he was an Arab and did not serve in the army", that old argument used by the government and the authorities to justify discrimination against Arabs. Things, however, had not stopped there: One day, four or five thugs came to his shop, and it did not take much to realise which part of the population they belonged to. They had threatened him and aggressively demanded that he leave Rehavia, because it was no place for Arabs.

"This is, of course, a hypocritical and silly thing to say, since most of Rehavia shops, which are owned by thoroughly patriotic Jews, employ Arab boys, not to speak of the Arab building workers, cleaners and gardeners. And if an Arab gardener may care for the beautiful rose gardens, why can another Arab not sell roses? According to George, his roses come from moshavim and kibbutzim anyway.

"But where was the graffiti? Without a word, George let down the shutters, and there it was, written in a crude and ugly hand-writing: "Dirty Arab, Get Out! ". I fell silent. I could not look into the eyes of the clean and neat young man. From the

الصهيونية = العنصرية		
Zionism = Racism		
توسيع	اضطهاد	احتلال
Expansion	Oppression	Occupation
P.I.O. UNIFIED INFORMATION		منظمة التحرير الفلسطينية التحرير والعدالة

ISRAELI RACISM IN PRACTICE

depot at the back of the shop came a strongly smell of burning. The same "heroes" had last Monday set fire to the premises and caused considerable damage to George's modest possessions."

NO ARABS ALLOWED INTO TEL AVIV SWIMMING POOL

Davar, 13. 6. 1980, by Danny Itzkori

"The son of one of the Gaza Strip's richest and best known families found that his affluence did not help him when he tried to buy a season ticket to the swimming pool of one of Tel Aviv's luxury hotels.

As his appearance did not reveal his origins and he spoke perfect English, he innocently assumed that the Israeli hotels would not discriminate against the rich who wished to enjoy their services. He therefore applied for a season ticket to one of them (as do most affluent Israelis, since the public pools and the beach

are full of criminals — the ed.). When the hotel management realised, however, that the application came from an Arab from Gaza, they were afraid that their good name among the Israeli Jewish public would suffer if they accepted it. So they refused."

THERE IS STILL NOBODY TO TALK TO...

al-Ha'mishmar, 13. 6. 1980, by Amnon Kapeliuk

"This week, my daughter returned in a state of shock from a visit with a friend of hers to the Old City of Jerusalem. She had seen five soldiers beating an Arab merchant who had shut his shop. "Do they beat someone just because he does not want to open his shop? Would they do that to our local shopkeeper because he occasionally closes?", she asked me. I gave her my answer, but I think that this fifteen year old girl discovered the bluff of "united" Jerusalem.

"There has been a formal decision by one party concerning the unification, but there are actually two cities, one is Hebrew Jerusalem and the other Arab al-Quds. They are divided by an invisible wall, which was constructed by the Prime Minister himself when he endorsed the order to treat the city's Arab inhabitants as if they lived in Nablus or Hebron...



Israeli occupation of Palestinian town of Al-Khalil (Hebron):
"Jewish" gifts from "Jewish" shops for "Jewish" settlers

"We may soon be told that the decision to hold the two hundred Jerusalem shopkeepers in custody for a whole night so that they may be escorted to their shops in the morning by soldiers who would make sure that they opened up was a barbaric one. This has already happened with regard to another inhuman decision, which involved the deportation of two families from Beit Sahour and Balata to abandoned refugee camps near Jericho... But these are only two examples out of a whole range of brutalities involving every aspect of life in the occupied territories."

DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ARAB TEACHERS

Jersualem Post, 9.7.1980

"Arabs seeking a place in the country's teacher training colleges now must fill in a special registration form completely different from that filled by Jewish applicants. The form, introduced in recent weeks, is a standard IDF and security Services questionnaire with a "Ministry of Education, Department of Arab Education and Culture" stamp superimposed.

"The questionnaire asks for extensive details about the applicant's family background and spouse, and for the names of "friends and acquaintances with whom you meet frequently".

"Completed forms are returned by the college to the Education Ministry, which apparently passes it on to the General Security Service.

"An Education Ministry spokesman questioned about the form said "it has been in use for some time", but could not say exactly when it was introduced. He said that Arab applicants are given a different form "for a variety of reasons", but declined to elaborate. The spokesman declined to say to whom the form was passed on by the Education Ministry."

DISCRIMINATION IN GALILEE

Yediot Aharonot, 29.4.1980, by Aharon Becher

"Thanks to the official in charge of the northern region, Mr. Israel Koenig, I have today become a committed television fan. There is indeed no other medium like it. Since Mr. Koenig's name had first hit the headlines in conjunction with his famous report, I had wanted to know what the man was really like. Now I know.

"The discussion on the colonisation of Galilee, which I watched today, took place in a chauvinist atmosphere. Not only that explicit support was expressed there for discrimination against some citizens in favour of others, but the "others", although allegedly equal, were barely allowed to comment on this. Do housing problems only exist in (Jewish) Ma'alot? Does the job shortage only affect (Jewish)

Carmiel? Do only the moshavim and other Jewish cooperative settlements suffer from lack of land? The inhabitants of Nazareth are, apparently, not worthy of employment. The housing shortage in the (Arab) village of Ja'ash does not seem to interest anyone.

"There were a few Arab citizens present in the television studio, but they were told in a rude and arrogant manner that Galilee had to be Jewish and had to be developed to the benefit of the Jews. They were then told to shut up. The Jews argued among themselves who should be doing what and when. The Arabs were silent. The development of Galilee clearly did not concern them, since no one asked their opinion about it.

"Several participants in the debate expressed support for the settlements in the territories, as well as Galilee, in order to show that there was no conflict between the two projects. However, from what was said today on television about the role foreseen for the Arab population in the development of Galilee, the inhabitants of the territories can easily learn what to expect from Israeli development plans beyond the Green Line, and what equality they can look forward to. It is very strange indeed that those who fail to get on with a small minority of fellow citizens believe they will in good time get on with a large minority of non-citizens."

THREE CLASSES IN GALILEE

Ha'aretz, 11.7.1980, by Atallah Mansour

(Extracts from an article primarily dealing with the complaints of Galilee's third generation Yemeni Jews, whose families arrived there in 1911, but were not allocated land and water rights by the Zionist organizations, which made them into de-facto servants of later Ashkenazi immigrants — the ed.)

"... It is easy to see how the division into disadvantaged and privileged takes place in Galilee: it operates essentially along ethnic lines... Yossef Kriti, the chairman of the Yemeni committee, tries to tell me the long-established Ashkenazi farmers nowadays lease much of their land to the Yemenis and to new immigrants from North America. The tenants pay IL1,500 or so per dunam, excluding water, and have to declare in writing that they have only paid one tenth of this sum, in order to help the owners evade income tax. I point out to him that the Yemenis and new immigrants in their turn, sub-lease the sowed fields to Arab villagers in exchange for a good profit. He denies this at first, but when I suggest that he tours the fields with me to see who is working them, he agrees that this might be the case.

"In other words, there are three classes in Galilee: First there is the middle class which consists of officials and public sector employees, moshavniks and authorised settlers all living in the old moshavim, towns and kibbutzim. Then there is a second group of

ISRAELI RACISM IN PRACTICE

people living in the more recent moshavim in the hills and along the Lebanese borders and inside the "courtyards" of the old settlements or the development towns. Lastly, there are, of course the Arabs, usually working as building labourers, who sub-lease the land or just work as share-croppers for some sub-contractor."

POISON SPRAYED ON PALESTINIAN CROPS

al-Ha'mishmar, 14.1.1980, by K. Amnon

(The same report appeared in *Ha'aretz* and *Davar* a day later)

"Poison was sprayed from aircraft to destroy thousands of dunam of agricultural land cultivated by the villagers living around Idna and Dura west of Hebron and of Yatta, which is south of it. The planes had been hired by the "Green Patrols" a few days ago. The "Green Patrols" (originally a nature reserve authority, which has been harrasing Arabs and especially Beduin for a number of years — the ed.) are commanded by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ariel Sharon.

"The areas sprayed with poison were situated partly within the Green Line and partly in the West Bank. Among the affected areas were 500 dunam (4 dunam = 1 acre) of wheat and other grains as well as 40 dunam of olive trees between Idna and Dura. In the region of Yatta, 100 dunum of land were sprayed with poison and all the crops destroyed. Scores of farmers who had come to work their land found their crops destroyed have complained to the military governor.

"An investigation has been ordered, but its results have not been published. A senior source in the military claimed in an interview with *al-Ha'mishmar* that most of the area which had been sprayed was situated within the Green Line. They added that although the land in question belonged to (Arab) villagers, it had been transferred to Israel according to the agreement signed with King Abdallah in 1949 in Rhodes. Only part of the area in question was situated in the West Bank.

"According to the same source, the poisoning of the crops in the West Bank had been "a mistake". The source was unable to explain how thousands of

dunam of crops had been poisoned by mistake and said that the incident had been investigated following complaints from a number of village mukhtars.

"This is the second time within a few weeks that the "Green Patrols" have used aircraft to destroy crops. The last incident of that sort had taken place near Kufr Qassem. At that time, it had been announced that the area in question, which was under cultivation by West Bank Arabs, was situated entirely within the Green Line. (No explanation has been received as to why the spraying would have been legitimate, had it indeed only affected Israeli territory and citizens — the ed.)"

WHAT GUSH EMUNIM THINKS OF THE ARABS

Ha'makor, (the Source), an official

Gush Emunim publication,

August 1980

"About fifty settlers from colonies met in Ganei Tal on the Gazan coast to discuss the state of Jewish-Arab relations. Following is the text of the contribution made by Abou Halamish (Ofra settlement), a well-known Gush Emunim leader:

"We regard the state of Israel as the beginning of Jewish redemption and ourselves as active participants in this process. We can therefore never stop thinking about ways to promote that redemption towards its ultimate aim. We believe that the Lord promised us this land, and that he promised it only to the Jewish people. We must draw the conclusions from this: On the long run, we cannot make any compromises, because in matters of faith compromises indicate disbelief in the ultimate aim.

"It is no coincidence that those who are most worried about preserving the Jewish character of Israel (*Peace Now* etc. — the ed.) are not actually very interested in Judaism, and see it as almost contrary to Israeliness. Complete redemption and the Jewish character of Israel in the future are, however, only possible on the basis of our faith. Those who have faith must spell things out right from the start: I believe that Eretz Israel will in the end be largely Jewish, and I relate to the Arab minority here accordingly.

"There remain, of course, some questions about what precisely is a resident alien who is equal before the law. If it was up to me, I would immediately annex all the parts of Eretz Israel that are in our hands today, and would give the Arabs the option to chose whatever Arab nationality they want. I would then introduce residence laws like the ones existing in other enlightened countries. If a person accepts the

existence and laws of the Israeli state and has no criminal or terrorist past, he will be able to live among us just like an Italian living in France. In the United States, for example, a person has to live for five years, prove that he is a loyal subject and show that he is self-supporting, before being able to apply for citizenship. In this way, an Arab who expressed the wish to become a loyal citizen of the Jewish state and proved this for several years would be granted the status of resident alien and enjoy all the relevant rights, including the right to serve in the IDF and to pay the same taxes as we do.

"As for the present situation, we are undermining our own efforts in a variety of ways. At this stage of redemption, we should at least be making sure that it is the Jewish people who strike roots and thrive in this area. The Arab nation can look after itself. We must try and make things harder for them. If we employ and develop them, we are weakening ourselves. It is not necessary to throw bombs into the casbah or expel the Arabs. There is nothing wrong, however, with making their life difficult in the hope that they will emigrate."

"DEATH TO THE ARABS" SCRAWLED ON CAMPUS BUILDINGS

Ha'aretz, 9.6.1980

"Swastikas and the slogans "Death to the Arabs" and "Expel all Arabs from the campus" were scrawled on the windows of the Eshkol tower at Haifa university. The board of the university complained to the police, which opened an investigation on the matter.

"A spokesman for the right-wing students' group "Israel Is Ours" told journalists that the slogans scrawled on the windows had been directed against the Jews and the Israeli state, but a police spokesman denied this. According to him, the only slogans found and photographed had been directed at Arab students.



Palestinians confront Zionist settlers in Ramallah

A TRIANGULAR CO-OPERATION:

NAZISM, ZIONISM AND BRITISH IMPERIALISM

by Faris Glubb

There is now fairly widespread public knowledge of the measures adopted by the Nazi German government after Hitler came to power in January 1933 to force Jews to leave Nazi-held territory, and later to exterminate those who still remained. The details of the precise attitude of the Zionist movement towards Nazi Germany, and the consequent relationship between them, are less widely known but are gradually emerging. But a subject that historians have largely neglected hitherto is the British government's position on Zionist-Nazi relations and how this affected the course of events in Palestine.

It is necessary first to examine what aims the three sides in this triangular relationship were seeking to achieve in the 1930s. Zionism, as numerous statements by its official leaders proclaimed, sought to stimulate Jewish immigration to Palestine with a view to establishing a Zionist state there. Nazism, as is well known, was trying to make Germany, and as much of Europe as possible, *judenrein* or free of Jews. British imperialism was less outspoken about its aims, but the later development of events demonstrated that it was striving also to increase Zionist manpower in Palestine, admittedly at a controlled pace, with a view to facilitating the formation of a Zionist state that would serve as an outpost of the Western imperialist alliance, in a strategic location that cut the Arab World in two and straddled the crossroads between the three continents of Africa, Asia and Europe.

At this juncture, therefore, it was clear that the three sides had a common aim of forcing European Jews to migrate to Palestine. This does not mean that the three would be permanent allies. While British imperialism at first regarded Nazism as a useful potential ally against Communism, and expressed this feeling in the 1938 Munich Agreement, it later saw German imperialism as a rival threatening its interests, so the Second World War broke out the following year. At the close of that war, Zionism realised that it would be in its interest to be on the winning side, and so it carried out some acts of taken opposition to

Nazism; it also saw that the imperialist centre of gravity was shifting to the United States, so it launched a terrorist campaign against the British.

THE NAZIS' ENVOY TO THE ZIONISTS'

However, the mood in 1933 was one of mutual co-operation, as was shown by the visit of Baron Leopold Itz von Mildenstein to Palestine. "Von Mildenstein was a member of both the Nazi party and of Hitler's elite bodyguard, the SS. His Jewish travelling companions were Kurt Tuchler, an official of the Zionist Federation of Germany, who was also accompanied by his wife. What had brought them together on this journey to Palestine was their common desire to make Germany 'free of Jews', or as the Nazis put it, *judenrein*. Where the National Socialists had not yet worked out a solution to 'the Jewish question', the Zionists, with their ambition to establish a Jewish homeland and their sponsorship of Jewish emigration to Palestine, had an answer...

"Unhappy with the (Nazi) Party's performance on the Jewish question, the SS proceeded to formulate its own Jewish policy — a policy which, based as it was on the promotion of Jewish emigration to Palestine, was remarkably like the Zionist programme...

"The Baron's peculiar fascination soon earned him the reputation among his SS superiors of being an expert on Zionism and its bearing on the Jewish question. His belief that the Zionist programme was both realistic and practical led his Party comrades to see it as a way out of the confusion that had for a long time prevailed among the busy theorists of Nazi Jewish policy. Not inconsequently, it was assured the co-operation of Germany's Zionists who, following the Nazi victory of January 1933, had become a force to be reckoned with in Germany's Jewish community, where they had had only limited success before 1933. Indeed, the fortunes of Zionism soared with

the coming to power of Hitler, a change reflected in the great increase in sales of the *Juedische Rundschau*, the bi-weekly newspaper of the Zionist Federation of Germany, with circulation climbing from a pre-Hitler average of less than 10,000 to almost 38,500 by the end of 1933.

"On the strength of this newly found popularity, Zionism claimed for itself an ever greater share of power in the Jewish community, basing its demand on the reputed failure of German Jewry's erstwhile leaders to prepare Jews for the coming of Hitler. The day after Hitler came to power, the *Juedische Rundschau* wrote that the struggle for Jewish rights could only be waged by those whose commitment to the Jewish people and nationality (*Volkstum*) had always been beyond reproach, to wit the Zionists. On April 7th the paper declared that of all Jewish groups only the Zionists were capable of approaching the Nazis in good faith, as 'honest partners'...

"Tuchler therefore contacted von Mildenstein and proposed that he write something positive about Jewish Palestine in an influential Nazi paper. Von Mildenstein agreed on condition that he be permitted to visit Palestine himself. Moreover, he asked Tuchler

to come along as his guide. So on September 26th, 1934, there appeared under the name of 'Von Lim' the first instalment of '*Ein Nazi faehrt nach Palaestina*' in *Der Angriff*, Goebbels' influential newspaper."

Von Mildenstein's articles were filled with praise for Zionism, alleging that it had "made the desert bloom" and indicating that it was turning Jews into something resembling "Aryan supermen". Even Zionist propagandists have seldom paid a warmer tribute to Zionism.

ZIONIST INFLUENCE EXPANDS UNDER NAZISM

"Von Mildenstein was no friend of the Jews (he was, after all, a member of the Nazi Party and of the SS). His sympathy went out only to that segment of Jewry that called itself Zionist. For the so-called assimilated Jew, the Jew who claimed to be a German first and a Jew second, or denied his Jewishness altogether, and for the Jew who who eschewed all racial feeling, he held no brief, his view of them being close to the official party position...



Legacy of the Mandate:
British troops detain Palestinians in Jerusalem

NAZISM, ZIONISM & BRITISH IMPERIALISM

"*Der Angriff* had a medal struck to commemorate the voyage of a Nazi and a Jew to Palestine, a medal with the Swastika on one side and the Star of David on the other. Where von Mildenstein did succeed, however, was in securing, early in 1934, the approval of and acceptance by his SS superiors for his idea that the solution of the Jewish question lay with the mass emigration of Jews to Palestine. Indeed, the articles earned him promotion, and he was assigned, in the summer of 1935, the Jewish desk in Reinhardt Heydrich's Security Service, the intelligence arm of the SS. Once installed in his new post, von Mildenstein proceeded to give muscle to the policy he had fathered.

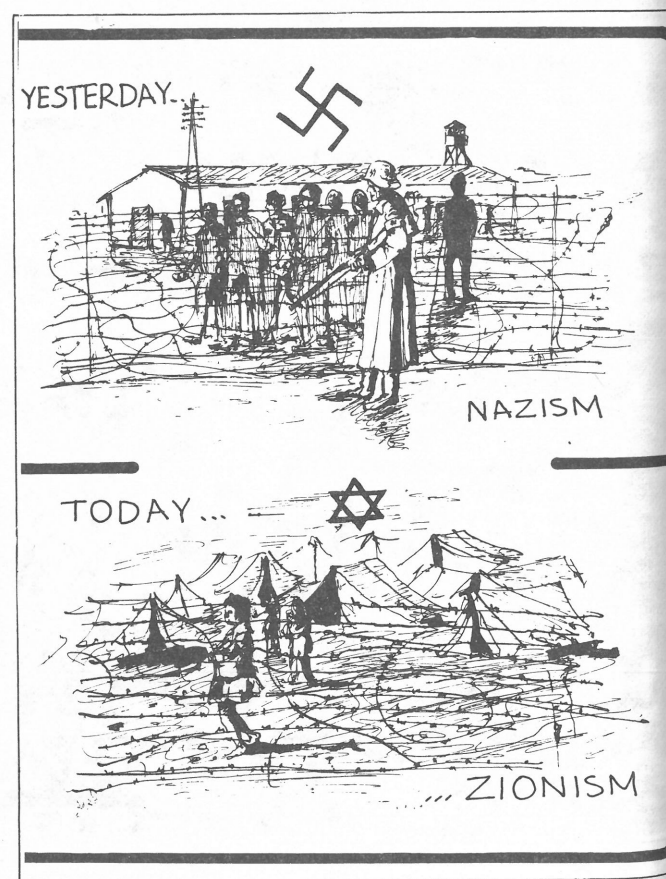
"The gist of that policy was to assist the expansion of Zionist influence among Germany's Jews who, despite the oppressive conditions under which they lived, still showed no great desire to emigrate to Palestine. By making a distinction between race-minded, emigration-conscious Zionists and 'assimilationists' out to destroy National Socialism, the SS strove to strengthen the Zionist position in the Jewish community. Accordingly, SS officials were instructed to encourage the activities of Zionists and to discourage those of non-Zionists. Zionists were given privileges denied to other groups. A police decree of March 1935, for example, ordered officers to favour Zionist youth groups over non-Zionist ones; the former were to be allowed to don uniforms but not the latter. The SS also looked with favour on the Zionist vocational and agricultural training centres which groomed young Jews for a life of toil in Palestine, and access to Nazi functionaries generally proved easier for Zionists than for assimilationists. Even the Nuremberg Laws (September 15th, 1935), which deprived Jews of their German citizenship and condemned them to pariah status, contained a special 'Zionist' provision: forbidden to fly the German colours, Jews were given the right to hoist their own flag, i.e. the Zionist emblem, the blue Star of David between stripes, also blue, against a white background."

FROM VON MILDENSTEIN TO EICHMANN

According to another historical account, von Mildenstein won his promotion earlier, and played a great role in laying the foundations of Nazi policy towards the Jews. "Within the department known as

SD-Inland (domestic affairs), a separate desk for Jewish affairs (coded II-12) was set up with SS Untersturmführer Leopold von Mildenstein in charge. Mildenstein hired Adolf Eichmann at the end of 1934 as his expert on Zionism, that niche in the bureaucracy coded II-1123. About a year later an ambitious research programme got under way, with the gathering of data about prominent Jews in Germany and abroad. The Jewish press was monitored. Studies were prepared about the ORT, a worldwide Jewish organisation promoting vocational education and training, and the Agudat Israel, a worldwide organisation of Orthodox Jews. Other studies were under way and additional experts were put on. Besides Eichmann, who specialised in Zionism, there were desks for 'assimilationists' and for 'Orthodoxy and philanthropy'. (According to Eichmann, his colleagues were Dieter Wisliceny and Theodore Danneker, both of whom were to become his dedicated troubleshooters in organising the deportation of European Jews)."

Some historians see the period after von Mildenstein retired and was replaced by Eichmann as one in which Nazi policy on the Jewish question was drastically changed, to embrace Hitler's evil 'final solution'. In fact the French proverb "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" is very apt here. From the moment of its advent to power until its collapse, the Nazi regime's central policy on this issue was to remove the Jews from Europe. The Nazis were not particularly concerned whether the Jews went to



Palestine, Heaven, hell or Madagascar (there was a scheme for deporting them there), as long as they were excluded from Europe. Nazi policymakers were quite happy to co-operate with the Zionists to arrange Jewish migration to Palestine, and then to exterminate those who still remained in Europe. So both the Zionist campaign to transfer Europe's Jewish population to Palestine and the 'final solution' accorded fully with Nazi aims. As two Zionist writers expressed it, "in January 1938 (Hitler) had already given orders that Jewish emigration was to be directed primarily to Palestine, and when that gate was also closed he embraced the simple way out that was now offered to him, the 'Final Solution' of the extermination camp."³ Nazi policy therefore showed remarkable consistency in adhering to the general policy aim whose foundation von Mildenstein laid, although methods of implementing it differed when the logistical disruptions of Europe at war made such a change tactically necessary.

Strategically the policy remained the same, apart from being intensified. In 1938, Eichmann, as head of the Jewish Emigration Office in Vienna, signed an agreement with Zionist envoy Moshe Bar Gilad to assist the emigration of Austrian Jews to Palestine after the Nazi authorities in Austria had trained Zionist youth pioneers. A similar agreement on the transfer of German Jews to Palestine was signed between another Zionist emissary, Pinhas Ginsberg, and the Gestapo headquarters in Berlin. "As regards training facilities Eichmann kept his promise. He supplied farms and equipment. On one occasion he expelled a group of nuns from a convent to provide a training farm for young Jews. By the end of 1938 about a thousand young Jews were undergoing training in these Nazi-provided camps."⁴ Such trainees were very useful to the Zionist movement later as members of the Irgun, Hagana and Stern terrorist gangs to drive Palestinians out of their homeland and as settlers in *Kibbutzim* to man the Zionist state's frontiers.

FROM BALFOUR TO CHAMBERLAIN

The British government's role in this sordid chapter of history was not a noble one. It was then the effective governing authority in Palestine through the mandate, and it gave its consent and blessing to von Mildenstein's visit to Palestine to lay the foundations for the future Zionist relations with Nazi Germany. So the British government must bear its share of responsibility for the Nazi policy towards the Jews which von Mildenstein played an important part in outlining. Its share, it must be emphasised, because the main guilt falls on the Nazis for implementing such a policy, and on the Zionist movement for condoning and co-operating with it.

British imperialism's policy towards the Jews was derived from the ideas of Balfour, who issued the notorious Balfour Declaration, out of his hatred of the Jews in Europe, in order to encourage them to



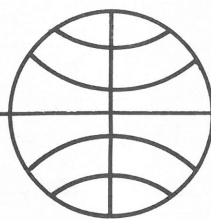
The fruit of Zionist Nazi collaboration
was the 1948 massacre of Deir Yassin Palestinians

migrate from Britain to Palestine, as well as from the attitude of Chamberlain and others who saw Nazism as a potential ally.

After Chamberlain's policies had reached their culmination in the Munich Agreement, Britain's ruling class realised that collusion with German imperialism was no longer in its interest, and allowed the British people to wage a gallant struggle against Nazism, in which they acquitted themselves with the highest honour. But by that time, as far as the Palestinian people and non-Zionist Jews in Europe were concerned, the damage had been done.

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1. Jacob Boas, *A Nazi Travels to Palestine* (article in *History Today* magazine), January 1980.
2. Lucy Dawidowicz, *The War against the Jews* (Harmondsworth, England, 1977), p. 113.
3. Jon & David Kimche, *The Secret Roads* (London, 1954), p. 217.
4. Ibid., see pp. 17-19.



TEL AVIV-PRETORIA CONSPIRACY

The UN General Assembly shortly before its recession adopted another resolution condemning nuclear and military collaboration between Israel and South Africa, thereby expressing the growing international concern over the conspiracy of the two regimes. With the accelerated extension of the Tel Aviv-Pretoria axis the two states want to further enlarge their economic and military potentials in order to quell the anti-imperialist liberation struggle in the Middle East and in Southern Africa. It is also their declared aim to smash the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia.

The recent visit of South African Finance Minister Owen Horwood to Israel is part of that strategy which enjoys the support of imperialist quarters in the U.S. and in the FRG. In talks with his Israeli counterpart, Yigal Horowitz, agreement was reached on Pretoria supporting the crisis-stricken Israeli economy with annual credits of 140 million dollars. The credits are above all intended for expanding major Israeli arms factories whose products such as "KFIR" fighter planes, "GABRIEL" missiles, and warships have been delivered to South Africa for years. The racist regime has repeatedly used them in its acts of aggression against Namibia and in the attacks against the People's Republic of Angola.

There is an intensive "exchange of experience" between the general staffs of the two aggression armies and the ill-famed BOSS and MOSSAD intelligence services on methods to suppress the growing resistance of the Palestinian and African patriots. While Israel is trying to subdue the Palestinians' struggle for a state of their own by building ever more settlements in the occupied territories, Pretoria is creating bantustans to perpetuate the discrimination of the black population. In the face of these terrorist methods and the dangers to peace emanating from the Tel Aviv-Pretoria conspiracy the solidarity of broad quarters of the international public with the struggle of the oppressed peoples for their self-determination is growing.

ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA AND TAIWAN DEVELOPING CRUISE MISSILES

Israel, South Africa and Taiwan will soon begin with the joint production of a cruise missile, the "Washington Post" disclosed on December 9. According to the paper U.S. Secret Services had known for years that the three states jointly develop nuclear

weapons. The secret of the joint development of the cruise missile had been kept by the U.S. Secret Services. Not even the leading congress members had been informed of it.

SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION AGAINST ANGOLA

The South African racist regime has again launched serious acts of aggression against Angola from illegally occupied Namibia. A communique of the Angolan Defence Ministry issued in Luanda on December 19 says that two South African jet fighters attacked civilian vehicles on the road from Xagongo to Mongua in Cunene province on December 15 killing a woman and badly wounding four people. On December 17 a South African armoured unit consisting of 16 tanks shelled the Angolan border post near Santa Clara and penetrated Angolan territory. The same day, South Africa concentrated strong units, armoured vehicles and helicopters in the Onangue



area. Hercules C-130 transport planes dropped para-troop units. The Angolan Defence Ministry stresses the serious consequences of the latest aggression for peace in Southern Africa.

CHILEAN SOCIALISTS FOR UNITY AGAINST MILITARY JUNTA

On a press conference held in Havana on December 4 Clodomiro Almeyda, General Secretary of the Chilean Socialist Party stated that Chilean Socialists will do their utmost to bring about the overthrow of the Pinochet regime through stepped-up mass actions. Attaining this goal necessitated that uniting of all democratic and anti-fascist forces was speeded up. Clodomiro Almeyda said that the leftist parties had not always correctly analyzed the real relationship of forces in Chile. Especially after the plebiscite on the new constitution which had been manipulated by Pinochet, a new strategy had to be drawn up for political mass actions which were not aimed at a replacement of the government but the overthrow of the present regime.

In November the socialist party had held talks with different left-leaning parties. They showed concurring views with all forces. The General Secretary of the Socialist Party of Chile praised the victory of the Uruguayan people who had created the opportunity for the beginning of a new stage in the struggle against the dictatorship by rejecting the "draft constitution" presented by the military.

The third social committee of the 35th U.N. General Assembly on December 3 condemned the Chilean military junta for continuous violation of human rights, growing terror, and brutal persecution of regime opponents. A relevant resolution favoured by more than 90 countries, also voiced deep concern over the fate of disappeared patriots in fascist Chile. The result of the referendum could not be regarded as the authentic expression of the Chilean people's will.

NATO'S ESCALATION OF ARMAMENTS THREATENS WORLD PEACE

An adventurous programme which threatens peace and security of the peoples not only in Europe but all over the world, this is the judgement of the public of many countries on NATO's armament plans which were adopted in Brussels a year ago on 12 December 1979. Their materialisation and further concretization has been discussed by the pact's leading bodies in Brussels in early December. Under pressure by the USA and the FRG the imperialist military pact last December had taken the grave decision to produce hundreds of new American medium-range nuclear missiles and to station them in Western

Europe. In such a manner the existing military equilibrium in Europe is to be upset and NATO procured military superiority.

The member countries of the Warsaw Treaty issued a declaration in May 1980 warning of the grave dangers this policy harbours to peace and detente. The document confronted the NATO pact's arms drive programme with a comprehensive and constructive programme for arms limitation and disarmament.

Since the date of adoption, the fateful Brussels decision has produced a flood of international protests which gained added momentum when numerous organizations and prominent figures in Africa, Asia and Latin America joined in. At a World Parliament of the Peoples in Sofia in September public figures from 134 countries strongly opposed the production of new systems of mass annihilation weapons. Indian foreign minister Narasimha Rao warned that the deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe would contribute to worsening the international situation. Fidel Castro described the NATO plans as a serious danger to all mankind. He said they furthermore meant squandering huge sums which were urgently needed for the industrialisation of the developing countries.

In numerous statements politicians and mass media in Africa, Asia and Latin America have drawn the conclusion that it is solely the confrontation course pursued by aggressive forces of imperialism which has considerably worsened the international situation. There is deep concern at the NATO plans to widen the area of pact operations and to employ NATO units in the Middle East and in other parts of the world.

A GENERAL TO HEAD U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

The *Washington Post* of December 19 reported that the newly elected Reagan Administration will be making fundamental changes in the U.S. State Department, the supposed civilian political arm for conducting the business of U.S. foreign policy. The new policy orientation is to be "avowedly nationalistic" and is to avoid "abstractions... such as undue emphasis on human rights." Since any illusions about U.S. consideration of human rights in foreign policy will be dropped, Reagan has chosen a general to head the State Department.

The general is Alexander Haig who was a former deputy to the National Security Advisor under the Nixon Administration when Henry Kissinger held the post. Haig was also a former Vice Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army and a NATO commander until June 1979. Haig's views on important policy matters are largely unknown, but the *Jerusalem Post* of De-

cember 17 speculates that "many Israeli officials and other pro-Israel activists in Washington believe that a Reagan-Haig-Allen team in charge of U.S. foreign policy could turn out to be a real plus for Israel."

A right-wing columnist in the *New York Times* of November 24 describes Haig as "the only four-star general never to have commanded a division; he speeded from colonel to major general under the sponsorship of Henry Kissinger, who appreciated an efficient order follower who would coolly tolerate the most demeaning bullying." The *International Herald Tribune* of December 19 says that "in recent years, Gen. Haig has spoken out often against the perceived Soviet military threat... Gen. Haig also attacked a human rights policy that has the practical consequence of driving authoritarian regimes, traditionally friendly to the West, into totalitarian models." Haig is likely to become the good general who follows orders to lead the purge of the State Department of alleged "liberal reformers" so that the State Department will become even more militarist and chauvanistic than it already is.

On the question of U.S. Middle East policy Haig holds similar views to other pro-Zionist elements in the Reagan Administration. He sees Israel as the main strategic ally of the U.S. in the Middle East which serves as a deterrence to an alleged "Soviet threat." Haig laid out his views on the Middle East to a meeting of the Zionist Organization of America on Oct. 27, 1979. The *Jerusalem Post* of December 17 summed up Haig's address: "Haig... rejected the notion that U.S. recognition of the PLO was necessary to maintain good ties with the Saudis." Haig stated: "Our apparent differences with Saudi Arabia do not rest solely with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Several differences are rooted in these developments: First, our failure to contest Soviet activity in Africa and Asia; second, the Soviet-Cuban buildup in South Yemen; third, our inability to prevent the fall of the Shah; fourth, our mismanagement of the dollar. Recognition of the PLO would not deal with these issues."

A glimpse of how Haig would approach international negotiations is provided by the *International Herald Tribune* of December 22. When U.S.-Vietnamese negotiations began in Paris in October 1972, Haig was a deputy to Kissinger who led the U.S. negotiating team. When the talks broke down in December, 1972, "Gen. Haig was among the strongest advocates of the 'Christmas bombing', 12 days of heavy bombing of the Hanoi area and other parts of North Vietnam intended to change the communist government's negotiating posture."

Haig's advocacy of bombing Vietnam back into the Stone Age, only ended in uniting the Vietnamese people to decisively defeat the imperialist aggression. Haig's views on the PLO, may lead to the same fate for U.S. aggression in the Middle East.

EL SALVADOR — LATIN AMERICA A NEW IMPERIALIST ONSLAUGHT



David Rockefeller is greeted by Latin American dictators in November: here with Chilean Gen. Pinochet.

The struggle in El Salvador is reaching a decisive turning point at the time of Reagan's assumption of the presidency in the United States. While the U.S. has been slowly building a direct military presence in the country during the past year, these efforts are likely to intensify under a Reagan administration.

The terror of the military junta in El Salvador has continued unabated. On December 18, the East German news agency ADN reported that 50 civilians were killed by raiding government soldiers in the town of Bertin, 150 km east of San Salvador. During this operation 10,000 peasants, mostly women, children and old people, were driven from their land.

The army terror against the civilian population is part of an anti-leftist drive begun in August. The campaign has centered on the mountainous region near the border with Honduras. In this year alone over 9,000 people have been murdered by right-wing death squads or army raids. In addition to the dead, the army terror has created thousands of refugees. The *New York Times* of October 25 reported that some 25,000 peasants had fled the border region during the army operations and were in desperate need of food. Liberation spokesmen added that "United States military advisers were taking part in the offensive, which has involved the use of incendiary bombs and napalm against rural hamlets."

The Salvadoran military murder campaign has been so indiscriminate that four of the victims in the first week of December were three American nuns and a social worker. The four American women were abducted, raped and then their bodies were riddled with bullets. The resulting investigation by U.S. officials demonstrated that the U.S. is prepared to support the fascist junta even to the extent of disregarding the murder of its own citizens.

On December 5, the Carter Administration made a weak symbolic gesture of suspending new military and economic aid to the Salvadoran junta. But the *New York Times* of December 6, reported that the new military aid included only "six helicopters, some combat uniforms and a Salvadoran Army request for 100 shoulder-fired grenade launchers." The suspension did not include "delivery of equipment on which agreements have already been signed." In 1980, the U.S. channelled about \$100 million worth of military and economic aid to El Salvador to shore up the fascist junta. After two weeks, of the hypocritical "boycott", the suspension of new military aid was lifted and it was business as usual in propping up the junta.

REAGAN PLANS FOR SOUTHERN AGGRESSION

A hint at Reagan's policy toward El Salvador was unveiled by the investigatory team sent ostensibly to gather information about the murder of the four American women. The team was headed by William D. Rogers, a former Under Secretary of State for Henry Kissinger. The *New York Times* of December 7 reported that Rogers disclosed another purpose for the U.S. investigatory team — to study "what kind of government can exercise power effectively now in El Salvador's conditions." The mission was to report directly to Richard Allen, Reagan's newly appointed National Security Advisor.

While church leaders in El Salvador blamed the death of the four Americans directly on the Salvadoran military, a virtual coup was announced after the arrival of Rogers and his investigatory mission. Reagan's men apparently made their decision on the spot as to "what kind of government can exercise power effectively." The decision was to enact a takeover of the already fascist junta by its most extremist faction. The man that the western press describes as the "most liberal member of El Salva-



Victims of El Salvador's fascist death squads

EL SALVADOR —
LATIN AMERICA
A NEW IMPERIALIST
ONSLAUGHT



dor's ruling civilian-military junta", Col. Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, was ousted.

While the rightist coup was being acted out in El Salvador, another coup was in the making in Washington to consolidate Reagan's new aggressive policy toward Latin America. The *Guardian* of December 5 reported that "the Reagan transition team at the State Department has recommended a purge of the 'social reformers' in the office which deals with Latin America and the Caribbean." The "social reformers" in the State Department and in the U.S. military intelligence were already in 1980 stepping up military aid to the Salvadoran junta and training Salvadoran shock troops in its military intelligence school in the Panama Canal Zone. A purge can only mean a more direct and intensive kind of U.S. aggression against El Salvador and any other country in Latin America which tries to liberate itself from imperialist bondage.

IMPERIALIST STAKES

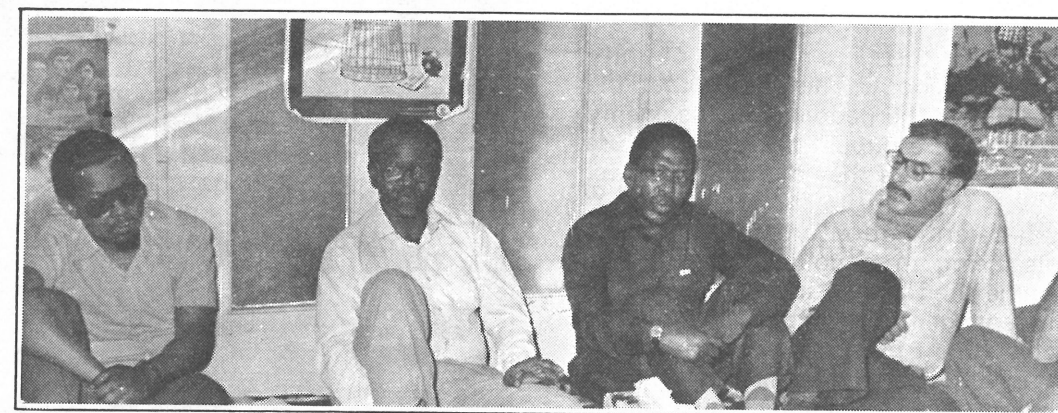
What is at stake for the U.S. in Latin America is clear from a visit David Rockefeller made to the continent in November. Rockefeller is the Chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank. Chase's income from Latin America has tripled in the last five years and its operating earnings from Latin America accounted for almost 25% of the bank's earnings for 1979 or some \$70 million. The *New York Times* of November 19 reports that "according to Chase economists, United States companies plan to invest \$4.2 billion in plant and equipment in Latin America this year.... Chase officials say they are in Latin America for the long term and are not too worried about short-term political fluctuations."

For, the short-term, Rockefeller and Reagan find it convenient to prop up fascist military dictatorships to protect U.S. "interests". Rockefeller toured Latin America a week after Reagan's election and assured the dictators of Reagan's support. He assured them that there would not be any confusing rhetorical flourishes about "human rights." According to the *New York Times* Rockefeller assured business leaders in Argentina that "Mr. Reagan will base his foreign policy on U.S. national interest", such as trade and natural resources."

But there is something that may destroy Reagan's plans for an imperialist onslaught in Latin America. In regard to El Salvador, the East German news agency ADN reports on December 6 that "U.S. military aid has not been able to check the actions of the people's liberation forces." The liberation forces in El Salvador have unified into a single command and political structure called the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation. For the past five months the Front has been engaged in a massive training campaign to mount an all out military offensive against the regime. The offensive was already underway at the end of December and a fierce battle was taking place in the northeast of the country involving about 1,000 guerillas and about 3,000 Salvadoran army troops. With the beginning of the Front's offensive, *Agence France Presse* reports on December 30 that "the United States envisions furnishing the Salvadoran government with military aid which for the first time will include offensive weapons before the beginning of Ronald Reagan's taking office on January 20." Reagan's inauguration in Washington, will be met with resistance on the ground in El Salvador and elsewhere in Latin America.

ANC LEADER OLIVER TAMBO:

"THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE HAS AWAKENED THE PEOPLE'S UNITY"



ANC delegation with Oliver Tambo (second from left) at PLO Foreign Information Department

Oliver Tambo, the Secretary General of the African National Congress visited the Palestinian Revolution at the head of an ANC delegation at the end of October 1980. An address he gave before the members of the PLO Foreign Information Department was published in *Palestine*, Vol. 6, No. 20, 1-15 Nov. 1980. We print below a further exchange which took place at the time of the interview.

* * * *

Q: What are the implications of the bantustanization program on the struggle of the South African people?

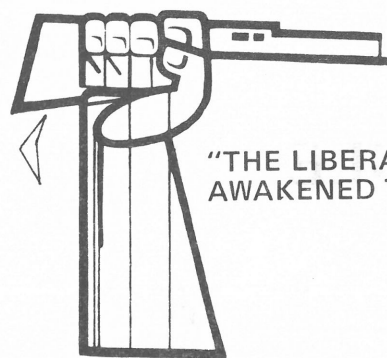
A bantustan is composed of patches of land which are separated from each other by white territory, white-owned land. There is no one boundary, but there are boundaries around these spots. Bantustans are called by a certain name which has a geographical character. To travel from one bantustan to another you may have to cross as many as 15 boundaries.

The bantustans are controlled by the racist regime. It contains them. It sustains them. It pays the officials. It tries to use them firstly as a recruiting ground for the white army. This is because the people have been driven out of the cities and from the bulk of the land (70%) and forced into these bantustans which together constitute 13% of the land. So there is overcrowding there. Bantustans can offer no jobs to the people who are driven out of the cities. They go to the bantustans and virtually starve — no work, no food. The bantustans are overcrowded and barren anyway. Then the regime comes and offers them jobs in the army with very big salaries. So people join the

racist army in order to earn a living. Having been trained, they are brought back as the army for that bantustan controlled by collaborators and puppets. The army is used to suppress the people. More importantly, the army is intended to be used against the liberation forces.

In each of these bantustans now there are small armies that are being trained. Their first task is going to be to defend the regime against the liberation forces. Some of them are trained and then taken to the border. This means that they are taken to Namibia and then on to Angola to fight SWAPO as part of their training. The racist regime reported some time ago that 20% of the troops at the border are black. In relation to the total army, they are very few. It means that practically all the blacks who have been trained have been sent to the border to do the fighting on behalf of the regime. They come from the bantustans and that's one function of the bantustans.

The other aspect of the bantustans is to divide the people and make them tribe-conscious. Anyone is a foreigner and a stranger who doesn't belong to a tribe. This is intended to prevent the people uniting in an armed struggle against the regime because that bantustan and that bantustan belong to a different tribe and they are not going to fight together against the regime. In any case, the regime relates separately to each. It maintains the separation. Now and again it creates mutual conflict between them to prevent them from coming together to become part of the revolutionary forces. Our task, of course, is to bridge this gap and unite the people, to give them a political consciousness which transcends these tribal divisions which are being thrust upon us. At the present



"THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE HAS AWAKENED THE PEOPLE'S UNITY"

moment one can say that there is a new level of unity among our people throughout. This means that the enemy is failing to divide the people. But the enemy is artificially creating these puppet armies which are going to do the sort of things they did in Zimbabwe.

In terms of self-determination, you see the point about our people being in a colonial status. The South African regime then grants 'independence'. So they have an 'independent bantustan'. It's not an independent bantustan. At best, it's a regional administration which is responsible for maintaining law and order, of finding jobs for people — just taking over some of the responsibilities and duties of the colonizer. It serves the interests of the economy for purposes of exploitation. It is the dormitory; it is where they dump the unemployed; it is where they look for workers. It is for purposes of administration and then they will admit into their areas those they want. These areas are very poor. So the workers there will accept jobs under any conditions. They serve in the mines — very poorly paid. It all builds up into maintaining the system of exploitation with the assistance of these tribally based regional administrations. There is no question of independence. There is no advantage at all in it. We get nothing out of it. In fact, the bantustans have been thought up as a strategy for maintaining the political and economic domination of the majority. A strategy for exploitation; a strategy for maintaining political power in the hands of the white minority.

SPIRIT OF UNITY IS DOMINANT

Q: We have noticed one new trend which has been the cooperation especially on the school level between the colored population and the black townships. What kind of work is being done to bridge the gap in this area?

For a long time divisions have been maintained between whites, coloreds, Indians and Africans. Not being content with the separate identity of Africans, they subdivided the Africans into various tribal groups. We had a problem not just of uniting the Africans with the coloreds and the Indians, but also of uniting the Africans who had been subdivided. What has happened recently is that the liberation struggle has awakened all our people to the importance of unity. The Africans, the coloreds, the Indians — all these are oppressed — have come



Africans, Indians, coloreds and whites are raising against the suppression

together under the influence of our continuing propaganda for one thing, and secondly, as a result of the liberation wars of which we were a part and the victories of those wars. So the oppressed have taken over power in Mozambique, in Angola, in Guinea Bissau and all these places. This helped to unite all our people even across the bantustan borders. In particular, it brought these three oppressed groups together. That sort of unity is finding expression in common actions.

Another thing is that the student youth have established against these bantustans an organization to which everyone can belong. There was a national organization which reflected the unity of the oppressed. This would have meant nothing if we had not been making more progress in terms of our struggle. But our armed struggle was yielding results. We were attacking. We were hitting in the country. The enemy was complaining about "the guerillas have come to South Africa and the guerillas are in South Africa to stay." This is what the regime was saying. They were saying that they had failed to stop the guerilla warfare — it has started.

The African National Congress keeps saying to the people that we all belong together. We must unite and we must fight together. We are repeating this all the time. But it is largely the influence of the events outside and around which has brought about this unity — in spite of the bantustans; in spite of the attempts to create this "president's council" which will consist of whites, coloreds, Indians and Chinese.

They are to "advise" the president. Now this has been rejected even by conservative elements within these groups. It has been rejected because the spirit of unity is dominant. It is reflected in the rejection of the status of subservience of domination.

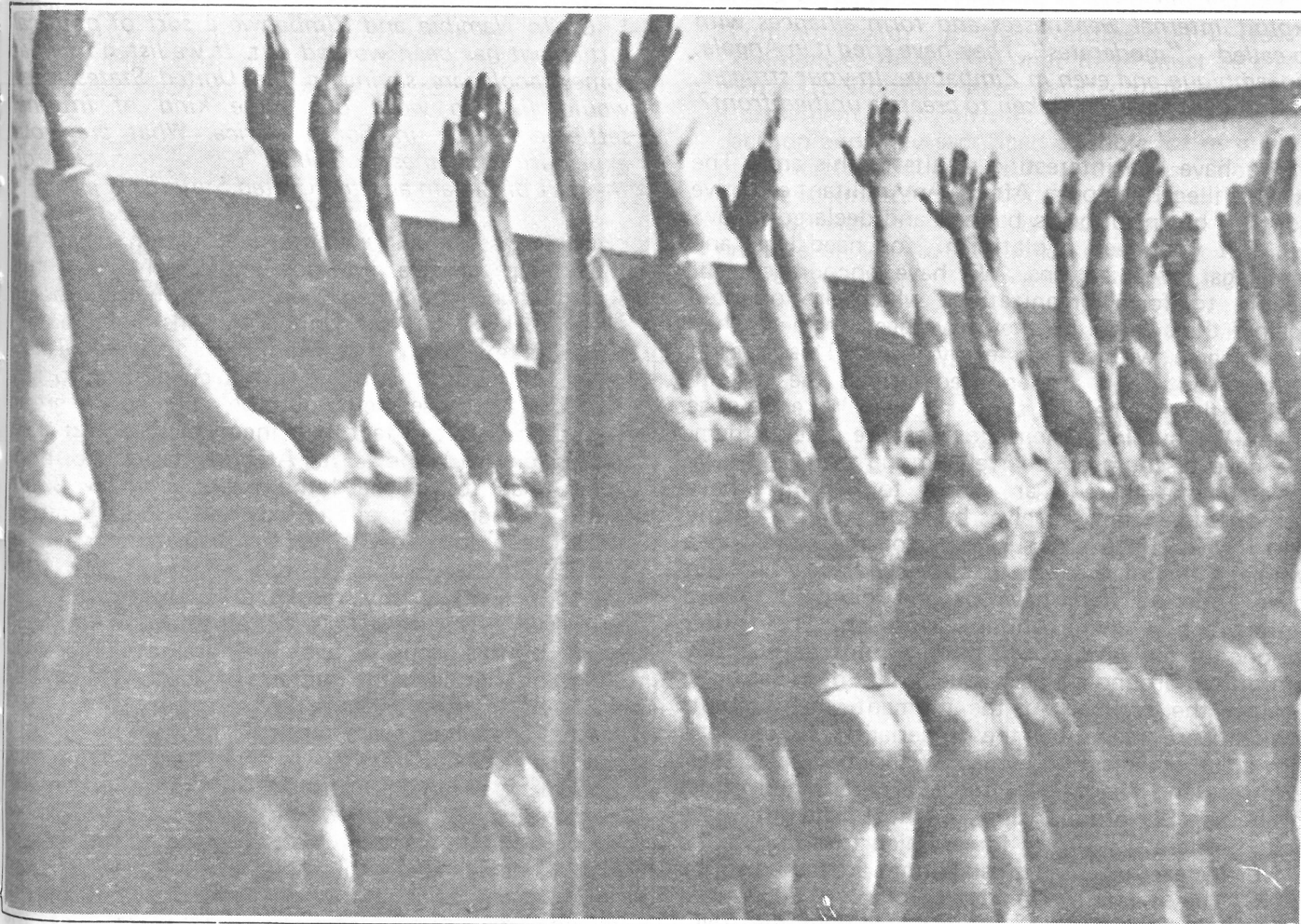
ANC ON THE OFFENSIVE

Q: What effect has recent ANC military operations had on the regime, especially the recent attack on the synthetic coal plant?

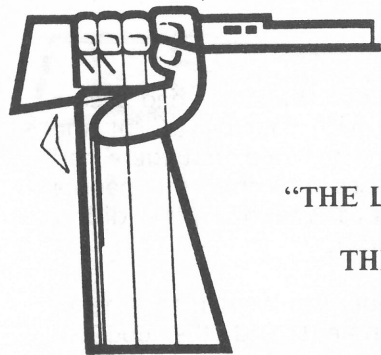
Politically, the regime tries to make out that it is in complete control of the situation. It's organized in full strength against what it calls "insurgents." The army has been especially reorganized to deal with insurgents. The police force has been turned into an extension of the army. In spite of that, guerillas are still able to strike and are not found, even one strike has a demoralizing effect on the enemy. So many actions are not reported; the press is not allowed to report them. When the press does report these actions many of the facts are distorted. But some of these actions are such that they can't be suppressed by their nature. For example, last year there were a number of armed clashes with the police in which police were killed. There were so many that the

regime was forced to announce that there had been a number of armed clashes with "terrorists" of the African National Congress. They said that there had been casualties on both sides and that the people must learn to live with this situation. We didn't announce it; they announced it.

This year three of our guerillas went into a bank. For six hours the government and the country virtually came to a standstill. Everybody was focused on this incident. It electrified the oppressed. It raised the question among the whites about how they came into the center of Pretoria. "Are we safe?" Other questions were: "What is the motive?" "What have we done?" Then there was another attack which was in the center of Johannesburg. They couldn't conceal it and it had the same effect of mobilizing the masses to support it. It left the enemy stunned because they couldn't do anything about it. They didn't find the guerillas and this had taken place in the center of Johannesburg. Very shortly after that came the attack on these oil installations. This series established the fact that the guerillas are on the offensive. They didn't know where the guerillas were going to strike next and when. There was a sense of insecurity as there was an acknowledgement that the liberation movement can do harm to the economy. The damage



African mineworkers are searched after each shift



**"THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE
HAS AWAKENED
THE PEOPLE'S UNITY"**

was reported to be at \$6.5 million. They are now saying that the damage was actually \$66 million. Some of the directors of these companies said that the country nearly suffered a severe disaster. We wanted to damage the plant in such a way as to stop production. There is one which they are building with the assistance of an American firm. Very sophisticated materials are used there which take a long time to produce. We wanted to damage them. Now, we failed to do that. We came very close to achieving that objective. What we were saying is that if we had succeeded, then the country would have suffered a severe disaster.

NO THIRD FORCE

Q: One imperialist strategy has been to try and exploit internal weaknesses and form alliances with so-called "moderates". They have tried it in Angola, Mozambique and even in Zimbabwe. In your struggle, what moves have you taken to create a unified front?

We have had interesting results in this area. The ANC is illegal in South Africa. Any militant effective political organization is banned and declared unlawful. But you need a platform. You need legal and semi-legal organizations. We have encouraged our people to form organizations which are oriented against the system. So they have been formed. They don't agree with us on every issue. This doesn't matter. But they are oriented against the system, against the regime. We support them. We encourage them. We publicize their activities. We defend them. We have discouraged quarrels among them and have insisted that there is an enemy to fight. We have demonstrated that ourselves by taking on that enemy and have claimed any successes for the people as a whole. Some of them at first attacked the ANC. But over a period they have become oriented toward united action and a unitary approach. They differ among themselves over one thing or another, but they are united around a bigger issue — that of the struggle against the regime. At the moment, the attempts which were made by the imperialists to create a powerful organization which would be under their control (and they really made a determined effort after our Soweto uprising) — those attempts have failed. There is no third force which tries to rival the ANC. Instead, all these organizations are linked to the ANC. They relate to the ANC favorably. I don't want to say that they accept the leadership of the ANC, because I'm not the one to say that. But I can tell

you that various people who have gone into South Africa say that just about anyone you talk to supports the ANC or is otherwise favorably disposed to the ANC.

This year we have seen a pattern of actions which are possible only if all of these organizations are acting in unity and everybody comes in. All these organizations accept the ANC. So there is no third force situation. It's a very interesting point to reach given that we are underground. We can't call meetings and meet with these people directly as leaders. We have to send them messages and write letters and so on which consumes time. You have a position where an organization which is underground and lives physically outside (at least the leadership anyway), has a strong presence inside South Africa. One of the things that has helped this process is Nelson Mandela's name. Nelson Mandela is the leader of the ANC and is supported throughout the country. He is in touch with us in various ways. All this has helped to unite the people and has minimized the chances for the creation by the enemy of forces allowed to do the enemy's work.

**DIM PROSPECTS FOR
A POLITICAL SOLUTION**

Q: In Namibia and Zimbabwe a sort of political settlement has been worked out. If we listen to what some people are saying in the United States, they would like to work out some kind of internal settlement even in South Africa. What are your expectations of these so-called "peace" initiatives on the part of Britain and the United States?

As far as Namibia is concerned, it seems clear that the group of five interposed themselves on this situation and appointed themselves as negotiators in order to keep out the United Nations and create a situation in which they would legitimately discuss plans with South Africa without giving rise to any suspicions because they would be a recognized group negotiating. But in fact, it is inconceivable that their discussions with the South Africans had any options other than to safeguard the interests of the South Africans themselves at the expense of the Namibian people and somehow to get the rest of the world to accept their solution. It has taken all this time without yielding any results precisely because the initiative in terms of a political solution has been taken by this group of five. They are not going to do anything that hurts the interests of South Africa.

Now there are said to have been these last discussions which were reported to have ended in a deadlock. Where do they go from there? In a way, nobody is really surprised. The longer that this process takes, the more opportunity South Africa has to consolidate its own plans. In the meantime, of course, they are exploiting Namibia, taking out uranium and so on. It's alright for them. They are not in any real hurry. The other thing is that the Namibian people must have learned correctly from

the experience of Zimbabwe. So if there are elections in Namibia, the chances are that SWAPO would win the elections. Much of this delay arises from the fear of a political solution. It is South Africa which is putting up obstructions because they don't want this particular result. A political solution is almost by definition one in which the enemy gets away with something.

In Zimbabwe after the Lancaster Conference, the Patriotic Front was in an awkward position. That Lancaster Conference put them up against a wall. What saved the situation was that the masses of the people had made up their minds in spite of all the propaganda. The result in the Zimbabwe case is that Zimbabwe is independent, but is tied down by a whole lot of problems and compromises. Even so, I think that the enemy lost something in Zimbabwe as a result of the nature of the results of the election. If it was Muzorewa, their terms would have worked perfectly. They are still trying to reach a position where in Namibia they can get the results they want.

In South Africa there is talk already of a possible meeting between the regime and the ANC. The question of a political solution in terms of negotiations is being envisaged for South Africa and this is a battle. This question will always arise. We will always have to answer the question as to whether we are ready for negotiations or not when we are talking about this political solution. Sometimes the stage is reached when you have to go to this round table

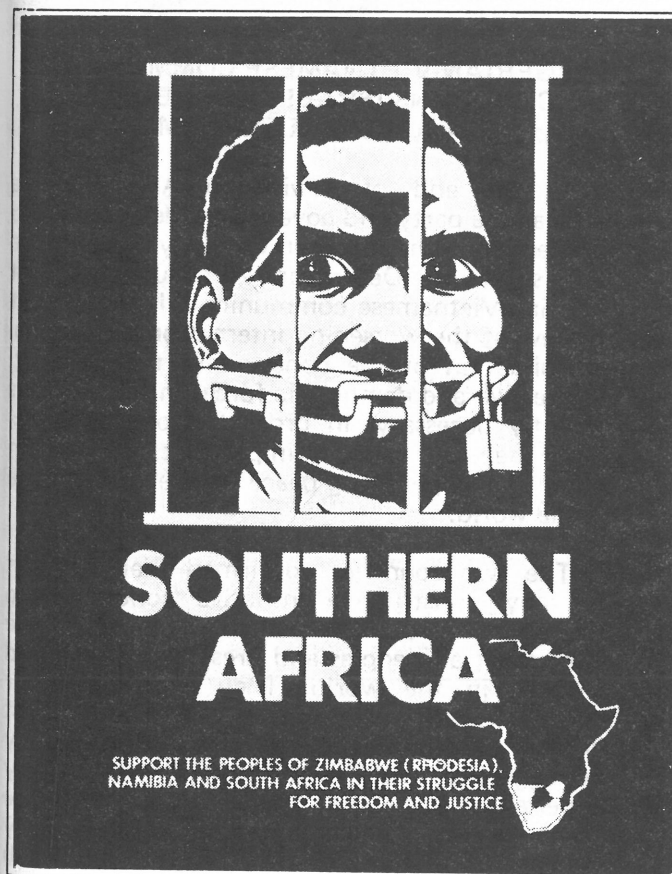
conference as the Zimbabweans had to under pressure. The Namibians have indicated that they are ready to meet the South Africans. South Africa says that Savimbi has to be a party. But SWAPO says it wants to meet South Africa. The various groups in Namibia, if they want to come to the talks, they come as part of the South African delegation. In the meantime, SWAPO is pushing ahead with the armed struggle. This question of talking was raised two or three years ago and SWAPO was in a relatively weak position. It's in a very strong position now. It can meet the South Africans. If there is not settlement, they can continue with the armed struggle.

Basically in entering any negotiations, you have to be ready to accept a compromise. This is the very essence of a political solution. It means that you have got to surrender some of your positions as the Patriotic Front did in London. It surrendered a lot of positions.

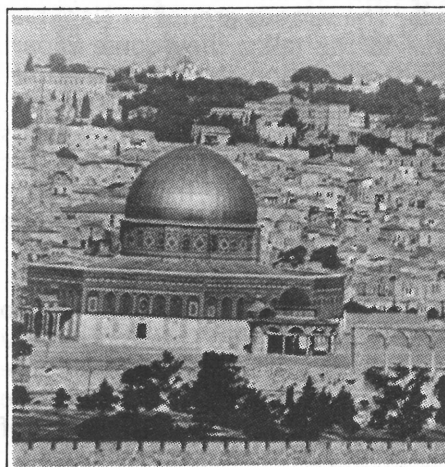
Q: But isn't the contrary true, as in the case of Vietnam where negotiations were part of the protracted war?

Yes. But in the Zimbabwe case there are pressures from all directions. The British had been clever in isolating the Patriotic Front and keeping the Organization of African Unity out and thus obtained a "commonwealth" in the frontline states. Now the Commonwealth decided that there must be a settlement. The frontline states decided that there must be a settlement. The Patriotic Front had nothing to fall back on and they sacrificed a whole lot of questions of principles. So you do have that case. You have a different kind of case, like the Vietnamese, when the international community is with you and there is no pressure on you to settle. You use the negotiations as part of the struggle. The Patriotic Front couldn't.

At least ZAPO and ZANU came together. And really they fought together in this Lancaster Conference. For months they stood together all the time. There was an element of disunity reflected in the positions of Muzorewa. Whenever an issue is put forward, he accepts. So the British would say to the Patriotic Front, "He has already accepted; why don't you accept more by tomorrow?" How do you stop it? We are fortunate in being able to maintain unity. It's a fortunate thing. It's a victory won. It doesn't come automatically and we know this. The enemies are able to get some puppet, some stooge, some collaborator, some traitor to use. Muzorewa's position was with the enemy Smith. He was bombing Zambia and Mozambique and claiming to have done it. The people didn't like it, but they were helpless. But when the elections came the people supported the other two groups. One thing that is true is that disunity can be exploited by the other side. It's part of our task to deny the enemy the opportunity to frustrate our difficulties by using these tactics.



SOLIDARITY



HERMES PICTURE CARDS
Cyprus Commemorative stamps
"International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People"
29.11.1980 - 5b.

CYPRUS ISSUES STAMPS ON OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL PALESTINE SOLIDARITY DAY

Special attention was given by the Cypriot people and authorities to the International Day of Solidarity with Palestine. Apart from the activities of all progressive parties, schools and institutes in Cyprus also participated in devoting the 29th of November to meetings and seminars on the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people. Palestinian photographs and posters covered the walls of corridors and the bulletin boards in most schools. Moreover, the Ministry of Communication and Transport issued two postal commemorative stamps on the occasion of the Palestine Solidarity Day, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers. The stamps started to be circulated at all the post offices of Cyprus on November 29, 1980.

JOURNALISM COURSE IN THE GDR

Two Palestinian beginning journalists were invited to study children's and young people's journalism in the GDR. The invitation came as a result of an agreement between the Free German Journalists' Union and the Palestinian Journalists' and Writers' Union. As a result of many similar agreements between the East German journalists' union and third world countries, many other beginning journalists from Asia, Africa and the Arab world attended the course which lasted six weeks starting on October 20, 1980 and ending on November 28.

The course for beginning journalists was taught in the International College of Solidarity in Berlin which has graduated 500 journalists

from third world countries in 24 courses. The latest course was the 25th.

The main aim of these courses is to strengthen the knowledge of journalism for beginning journalists in third world countries so they can write for the youth of their countries. The journalists who came for the 25th course, worked for various information mass media. All participants including the 2 Palestinians who came from the Palestinian news agency Wafa and the PLO Foreign Information Department, attended a week of practical studies according to their professional specialization. These 6 days of training gave those journalists a strong background in the technical fields in GDR's mass media.

Lectures were given by some of the most specialized and expert journalists in the GDR. Lectures covered most of the specialized fields in journalism including politics, culture, economics, agriculture and the military. At the end of the course, all participants had improved their political and journalistic knowledge for writing for the youth in their countries. Being part of a liberation movement, this kind of solidarity and training was much appreciated by the Palestinian participants.

ALGERIAN-VIETNAMESE COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNS ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND US IMPERIALISM

At the end of a visit to Algeria by a Vietnamese party and government delegation led by Deputy Prime minister Vo Nguyen Giap, the two sides on December 12 issued a joint Algerian-Vietnamese communique. It stated that in view of the worsening international tensions, consolidation of the cohesion of the socialist, progressive and democratic forces in the world is urgently necessary, in order to counter effectively the many forms of imperialist intervention which are jeopardising peace and security in the whole world.

The two countries confirmed their support for any constructive initiative conducive to strengthening the process of detente in the interest of all peoples and preserving peace and security in the world. They expressed their "deep concern at the tension in the Middle East in view of Zionist expansionism and the policy of aggression and intervention pursued by imperialism. They strongly condemned the Camp David agreements "which wholly betray the national interests of the Palestinian and Arab peoples."

Both countries reiterated their support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people under PLO leadership. They denounced the setting up of military bases in the Gulf region and imperialism's resorting to military interventions which are endangering the peoples in the region. Being aware that the conflict between Iraq and Iran cannot but favour the imperialist interventions in the region, the two parties appealed to both sides to cease fighting immediately and settle



PALESTINIAN FILMS AT LEIPZIG FESTIVAL

The 23rd Leipzig festival for documentary and short films was inaugurated on November 21, 1980 in the German Democratic Republic. More than 560 guests attended the festival including 136 from Africa and Latin America. More than 100 films were shown. The films dealt with the agony and struggle of oppressed people who are subject to imperialist aggression, subjugation and death. The festival was entitled "World Films for World Peace." The theme of the festival was a call for peace, disarmament, for human rights, freedom, progress and independence for the peoples of the world.

The PLO participated in the festival with two

their problems peacefully. Algeria and Vietnam accused imperialism of sowing the seeds of discord among the African countries and trying all neocolonialist means available to maintain their influence, to continue to exploit national resources and to halt the process of economic development for the liberation of the African continent.

films: "A Homeland outside Barbed Wires," directed by Kais Zubeidi; and "Children without Childhood," directed by Khadijeh Abu Ali. Zubeidi's film received an award from the referees' committee as well as a citation from the World Union of Cinema Critics.

The PLO offered its prize in honor of the late Palestinian photographer, Hani Jawhariyeh, to the East German director Kurt Tetzlaff for his film "Children of Palestine." Introducing his film Tetzlaff declared, "Today when I see and hear that Rashidiyeh or Tyre have been attacked, I have in mind those I have come to know there. I remember those who thought a fragmentation bomb to be a ball when they were looking for stones to rebuild their houses. I remember how happiness was mixed with fear. This is the daily life of the Palestinian children in the "Year of the Child."

There were other films dealing with the Palestinian cause:

— "Felicia Langer, a Lawyer from Israel", directed by Mario Offenburg, West Germany. The film contains an interview with Felicia Langer illustrating the maltreatment of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

— "Palestine — the Roots", directed by Amin al-Bunni, Syria. It is a documentary film demonstrating the struggle of the Palestinian people.

— "The Battle of Jerusalem", produced and directed by Pia Halkuft and Zogbert Eskelson, Sweden.

— "In South Lebanon", presented by the Hungarian Television. Other countries participated in the Leipzig Festival with films about world liberation movements. Among them were films from the GDR, El Salvador, Yugoslavia, USSR, Cuba, Angola, Vietnam, Japan, Holland, Finland and also from the United Nations.

SOLIDARITY



The opening day of the exhibition's preview

"JAPANESE ART EXHIBITION IN PALESTINE"

A preview of a "Japanese Art Exhibition in Palestine" began in Tokyo for one week starting December 8. The exhibition is sponsored by the Japan Afro-Asian and Latin American Artists Association for promoting artistic exchange between Japan and Palestine.

Some sixty paintings by Japanese artists, some of which feature Palestinian themes, are exhibited in two galleries in the central part of Tokyo. The Artists Association, established in 1977 for the promotion of artistic exchange between Japan and Third World countries, has actively promoted exchange with Palestinian artists since 1978.

After the exhibition in Tokyo, the paintings will be shipped to Beirut, Lebanon, for another exhibition to be held in the Arab University and eventually will become a collection of the Palestine Museum to be established in Palestine.

CUBAN WOMEN CONFIRM SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN'S STRUGGLE

The National Leadership of the Union of

Cuban Women sent a letter to the General Union of Palestinian Women on December 15, 1980, confirming the Cuban women's support for the Palestinian women's struggle to regain the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and their homeland, Palestine.



WOMEN'S ALLIANCE IN WASHINGTON DEMONSTRATES FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

Large demonstrations were staged on December 17, 1980 in front of the Israeli Embassy in Washington in support of the rights of the Palestinian people. The rally was organised by the Women's Alliance for the Rights of the Palestinian People. The demonstrators carried banners with slogans in support of the PLO, and denouncing the Camp David Accords for ignoring these legitimate rights. The demonstrators also called on the U.S. Government to cease all aid to Israel, and distributed pamphlets confirming that the Middle East conflict could not be resolved without recognition and realization of the Palestinians' rights. The pamphlets also denounced the daily Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people in south Lebanon.

FRENCH COMMUNISTS DENOUNCE ISRAELI TERROR CAMPAIGNS

On December 23, 1980, the French Communist Party (P.C.F.) has strongly condemned Israeli practices and violations of human rights in the occupied territories. The condemnation appeared in a statement issued by the P.C.F. Secretary-General Mr. Georges Marchais, who is also President of the Freedom and Human Rights Defense Committee in France. The statement which was delivered to the Israeli Embassy in Paris, denounced the latest oppressive measures adopted against the Palestinian inhabitants. The French daily *L'Humanité* published the statement following a visit by the paper's editor-in-chief to the occupied West Bank, where he personally witnessed the Israeli terror campaigns against the Palestinians.



Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka'a lauded by Romesh Chandra

SHAKA'A AND KHALAF HONOURED

The mayors of Nablus and Ramallah Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf were awarded by the World Peace Council the Salvador Allende Medal for courage and sacrifice in the struggle for national inde-

pendence, democracy and progress. The two Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank were the victims in June of an Israeli criminal attempt on their lives together with the Mayor of Al-Bireh Ibrahim Suleiman Tawil who escaped unharmed. Mr. Shaka'a lost his two legs and Mr. Khalaf lost one foot in the attack.

Mr. Romesh Chandra, President of the World Peace Council, and Mrs. Hortencia Bussi de Allende, widow of the former President of Chile, Salvador Allende, presented the medal to Mr. Shaka'a during the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace, convening in Sofia/Bulgaria from September 23-29. Mr. Khalaf, who could not be present at the World Parliament due to his medical treatment, will be presented with the medal at a special ceremony in the near future.

Mr. Chandra praised the courage, sacrifice and dedication of Mr. Shaka'a on presentation of the medal to the West Bank leader. "Bassam Shaka'a symbolises the heroism of the Palestinian people, their determination and courage in the struggle against Israeli occupation to attain their inalienable national rights, their self-determination and state," said Mr. Chandra.

Mr. Shaka'a, who received the medal in his wheel chair, responded by saying that it was a great honour for him to be awarded the medal carrying the name of a great man who fought for national independence, democracy and progress. "It is a medal honouring the struggle of the Palestinian people and their determination to regain their usurped inalienable national rights," said Mr. Shaka'a.

SOLIDARITY

AN ARTIST IS ALSO FIGHTING

The Palestinian artist Kamel Nikola Kabar is a postgraduate student at the Higher Institute of Pictorial Arts in Sofia. Side by side with his classes at the Institute, he is also doing a tremendous amount of work for popularizing the cause of the people of Palestine who are fighting for their human rights, by exhibiting caricatures and placards in Sofia and in other Bulgarian towns. With the help of the Bulgarian Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa he has already organized about ten such exhibitions in the country.

Not long ago, on the basis of an agreement between the Bulgarian Committee and the Greek Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Colonial League, Kamel Nikola Kabar organized two new exhibitions in Greece, in the towns of Athens and Patras.

The exhibition in the capital was organized at the Athens' National Museum and was opened by the mayor of the city in the presence of the President of the Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Colonial League, a representative of the Pales-



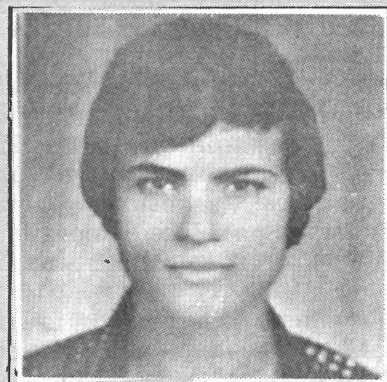
graphic by Kamel Nikola Kabar

tine Liberation Organization, official persons from progressive Greek political parties, from the Diplomatic Corps, cultural workers and many citizens.

The exhibited 52 graphic works reflect the struggle of the Arab Palestinian people and of other enslaved peoples against imperialism and neocolonialism, for independence and freedom, as well as life in a few countries of triumphant socialism.

Both exhibitions of the Palestinian artist were very successful.

(from "Solidarity", Bulgaria, No. 2/1980).



RELEASE ZIAD ABU EIN!

The long arm of Israeli-style justice has reached into the United States. Based on a mere request by the Zionist state, the F.B.I. on August 21, 1979, moved to arrest a 19-year-old Palestinian, Ziad Abu Ein. Ziad has been held in Chicago's Metropolitan Corrections Center since August 21, 1979, without bail awaiting extradition to Israel, where he will be threatened by torture.

In his continued imprisonment, Ziad has been denied basic rights guaranteed to all by U.S. law, and has become a victim of State Department efforts to play politics with the U.S. courts. As a result of unprecedented State Department pressure, the Judge hearing Ziad's case initially ruled that he be extradited — even though the only evidence against Ziad is an alleged confession by a 3rd party which has since been recanted.

In early December 1980, Ziad Abu Ein has been placed in solitary confinement (the "hole") for 23 hours a day. Ziad has gone on strike. He refuses to do prison work and to wear prison clothes. He feels that to force him to do both adds insult to injury, since he is not a criminal and is literally be held hostage while the State Department plays politics with his case. Ziad has been in prison for almost 16 months. There is no evidence sufficient to warrant his imprisonment. We must insist that Ziad be freed. Ziad Abu Ein needs your support if he is to remain free.

Contact: Ziad Abu Ein Defense Committee
Post Office Box 1347
Chicago, Illinois 60690 U.S.A.

JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARIANS DELEGATION VISITS THE PLO

"WE RECOGNIZE THE CORE OF THE PROBLEM"

By invitation of the PLO, a delegation of the Parliamentarians League For Japan-Palestine Friendship visited the institutions of the PLO in Lebanon between December 11-15, 1980.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Toshio Kimura former foreign minister of Japan. The delegation consisted of representatives from the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives. Six parties were represented, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Japan Socialist Party, Komeito, Japan Communist Party, New Liberal Club, and the Social Democratic Federation. On December 12, the delegation met with PLO Chairman Arafat. In this meeting they handed an invitation to Chairman Arafat to visit Japan.

During their stay in Lebanon, the delegation toured the social, educational, medical, cultural, and productive institutions of the PLO where they were briefed about the activities of these institutions. The delegation visited the south of Lebanon where they witnessed the destruction in the Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese villages and towns caused by the continuing Zionist aggression.

The head of the Japanese Parliamentarians delegation, the former foreign minister of Japan Mr. Toshio Kimura gave the following interview to "Palestine."

Q: Could you brief us on the background of the Parliamentarians League for Japan Palestine Friendship?

A: This League consists of influential members of every political party in Japan. In other words this League represents the Japanese people. At the same time, we do not represent the Japanese government. However, we will be able to exercise a certain strong influence on governmental policy. At the same time,



Chairman Arafat meeting with former foreign minister Toshio Kimura

we are getting full cooperation from ministry of Foreign Affairs and the embassies in the concerned area.

Q: Would you please explain to us the attitude of the Japanese Parliament towards the Palestine cause?

A: As you probably know, this Japanese Parliament includes political parties, so there is no common opinion or viewpoint regarding the Palestinian issue. However, we have established some points of view: Peace in the Middle East has to be a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. Within this framework, the Palestinian issue is the core of the problem. And with regard to the solution of the Palestinian issue, we definitely need the participation of PLO. And we also recognize, that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Q: Could you brief us on the movement of solidarity with the Palestinian Revolution in Japan?

A: First of all, I feel that we need wide-ranging understanding among the Japanese people with regard to the Palestinian Revolution. Unfortunately the understanding of the Palestinian Revolution is not yet enough among the general public. Therefore it is of utmost importance that our delegation has embarked on this visit here. We will help to further the understanding for the Japanese people for the Palestinian cause. In order to broaden and deepen the understanding of the Palestinian cause by the general public of Japan, what we need is a visit of Chairman Arafat to Japan. If Chairman Arafat comes to visit Japan, the Prime minister of Japan will meet and confer with him. In addition to our Parliamentarian League there will be a welcoming committee consisting of a wide range of personalities such as people from business, labor and other sectors of public life. Moreover, the coverage of the visit by the media, and

“WE RECOGNIZE THE CORE
OF THE PROBLEM,
WE RECOGNIZE THE PLO”

what the Japanese people would hear, read and learn about the Palestine question with their own eyes, would further the understanding of the Palestinian cause among the Japanese people.

Q: What are the impressions you gained during your visit with the Palestinian Revolution and people?

A: I am one of those who already understood the Palestinian question in the past. However, by looking into the different activities of the PLO — other than its political activities such as its activities in economics, like Samed, in education and schools and in medical care and other sections of the PLO — I have gained the impression that the future of the PLO is very bright. In addition to that we experienced a

JAPANESE TV GROUP:

“WE TRY TO SHOW
THE CONDITIONS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE”

In November 1980, a three-member TV crew representing the Palestine Solidarity Committee in Tokyo, Japan, visited PLO institutions in Lebanon. “Palestine” talked with the delegation which comprised film director Tetsuro Nunkawa, cameraman Yuichi Nagata and Keiko Shirokawa, member of the Palestine Solidarity Committee and coordinator. The delegation gave a short briefing about its mission. Following is the text of the interview:

Three years ago we started our activities in the Palestine Solidarity Committee in Japan. At the same time we started to publish our bulletin in Tokyo. Another branch was established last August when we were trying to invite some PLO members to Japan. Now we have three branches.

We are a left-wing organization fighting for oppressed people. We have ties with the Japanese Socialist party. We started our activities through publishing our magazine. When we try to organize a

welcome by the Israeli and fascists as they shelled Rashidiyeh camp while we were visiting the area. This made evident to us what the Palestinian problem in Lebanon is. Through the experience of today, and by witnessing the permanent illegal activities of Israel, we have been further convinced of the core of the problem.

CHAIRMAN ARAFAT ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT JAPAN

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has accepted an invitation to visit Japan. The invitation was extended on behalf of the Parliamentary League For Japan-Palestine Friendship — a suprapartisan group consisting of members of the Japanese National Diet — by the League’s president, ex-Foreign Minister Toshio Kimura, which visited Damascus and Beirut for one week starting December 10. Arafat did not specify when he would visit Japan, but observers generally agree that the visit will take place early in 1981. On December 24, 1980, it was announced in Tokyo that the Japanese Prime Minister was determined to meet Chairman Arafat.

conference for support of the Palestinian cause we are surrounded by the Japanese police. This has been the situation for the last three years. In Japan there was only one book on the Palestinian cause and it was written by one of our organisation’s members. It was the first book which demonstrated the Palestinian cause in the correct way. The author came to the Middle East and researched the situation of the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine. Following discussion and meetings, some members of our organisation came here for more research. Among them was Kaza who wrote that book. Up till now Kaza has visited the region three times.

“IN JAPAN PEOPLE STILL KNOW LITTLE ABOUT PALESTINE”

We are not a big organisation, but we are trying to put everything in order. We started our activity with the World Solidarity Day with the struggle of the Palestinian people in 1977. We have been celebrating this occasion for the last three years. Also we attend other organisations’ meetings to distribute our magazine and posters. We attend all political meetings to make the Japanese public opinion conscious of the Palestinian cause. The problem we have is that in Japan people know little, not only about the Palestine cause but also about the Middle East as a

whole. They think that the Arabs are oil-rich countries and that every woman covers her face. The Japanese people are controlled by the Japanese government’s policy.

Now the Japanese government is trying to prevent us from knowing what is happening here in the Middle East and consequently why and what the Palestinians are fighting for. That is why we have to stop the Japanese people from thinking that the Middle East is just in Asia and is far away.

All the news we get is from the western countries. This is also fixed in our educational system. As you

know, Japan has special conditions due to the second world war. Its educational system tends to separate Japan from other nations and peoples.

Our knowledge and our news as well as our ideas are affected by the influence of U.S. and western ideology. That is one of the reasons for Japan’s policy of not recognising the PLO. It is because the Japanese government is under the United States’ umbrella.

Our aim is to show the other aspect of the conditions of the Palestinian people. That is despite the suffering, they still have good family relationships. We think that this is better than ours. There is a rupture in family relationships in Japan. Old people who went to the war and killed other Korean and Japanese people cannot tell their children about it. But for the Palestinians we notice that the young generation is following the old one. In Japan they try to hide themselves. They are afraid that their children would not respect them. They feel that there is no confidence between them and their children.

The people who are working in the TV media do not know anything about the Palestinian cause. That is why we got the chance to come here. We think that we know better than them. The director went to the national TV station and lectured about the Palestinian problem. Then they agreed to sent us on this assignment.

Our films would be an extension of our two other films about the life and conditions of the Palestinian people and Resistance. We want also to make a film about the relations between the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and how weak the UN soldiers are. We hope that we can show our films on a commercial TV channel. In Japan there are two national channels and six commercial ones. With respect to the Japanese public opinion we notice that there is some development concerning the Palestinian cause. If the film was shown on the TV, this will be of great use. People will be astonished and surprised.

Bulletin issued by Tokyo Solidarity Committee

パレスチナ連帯通信

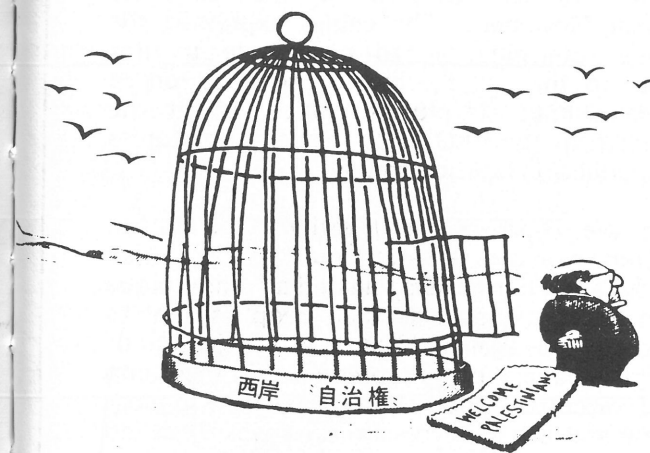
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Opening session of G.U.P.D.P.H. congress

4TH CONGRESS OF GENERAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN DOCTORS

The 4th conference of the General Union of Palestinian Doctors and Pharmacists (G.U.P.D.P.H.) was opened on December 25-28, 1980 at the UNESCO hall in Beirut. The conference was entitled "For the Mobilization of Lebanese and Palestinian Medical Resources as Part of Overall Arab Mobilization". It was attended by representatives of foreign and Arab medical unions and G.U.P.D.P.H. branches from various parts of the world. The program of the convention included speeches by representatives of the Lebanese Union, Palestinian national associations, the G.U.P.D.P.H., the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Revolution.

The G.U.P.D.P.H. which was established in 1968 under the name of the Palestinian Medical Professional Union held its first and second conventions in Cairo in 1969, and 1972; the third was held in 1974 in Beirut.

Dr. Fathi Arafat, President of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Dr. Nazih Bizri, the Lebanese Minister of Health, and Abu Iyad, member of Fateh Central Committee, addressed the opening session of the conference. In his speech Abu Iyad said "your conference confirms the humanitarian aspect of the Revolution, in

which the worker, the student, the engineer and the doctor work together side by side. Although our Zionist and imperialist enemies might not realize it, our concern with science is as important as our concern with the rifle; both are complementary and can not be separated." Abu Iyad stressed the need to help the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples: "What have the Arabs given them? Only words, and yet Arab money daily piles in American and European banks..... It never occurred to them to compensate the southerners for even a part of their daily losses."

Dr. Fathi Arafat stressed the significance of holding the conference in these circumstances to discuss and coordinate the efforts to help ease the suffering of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples against the daily Zionist aggressions.

Following its deliberations the conference adopted a number of resolutions, including the need to mobilize medical potentials in the service of the Palestinian people and Revolution. The Executive Bureau of the G.U.P.D.P.H. nominated Dr. Fathi Arafat as President of the Executive Bureau and Dr. Sami Qandil as Vice-President.

The Fateh Central Committee sent a cable to the G.U.P.D.P.H. conference paying tribute to the Palestinian doctors and Pharmacists inside the occupied territories who were unable to attend the conference. The cable described the holding of the 4th conference as a true expression of allegiance to the armed struggle of the Palestinian Revolution.

For its part the conference of the G.U.P.D.P.H. sent cables to Chairman Arafat, Dr. Habash, Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (P.F.L.P) and the Central Political Council of the Lebanese National Movement. The cables expressed the Union's determination to contribute to the utmost to the call for general mobilization of the Palestinian Revolution which, under the leadership of the PLO, is confronting the forces of imperialism and Zionism.

At the close of its meetings, the fourth conference of the General Union of Palestinian Doctors and Pharmacists released a communique which asserted the Palestinian people's right to armed struggle against Israel and its rejection of all liquidationary plans represented in the Camp David accords, the United Arab Kingdom scheme and other European initiatives. It called for increasing support for the Palestinians under occupation to help them foil the autonomy plan; and appealed for achieving Palestinian national unity and for denouncing attempts to infringe upon Palestinian decision-making.

PALESTINIAN REVOLUTIONARY ART

BY MONA SAUDI

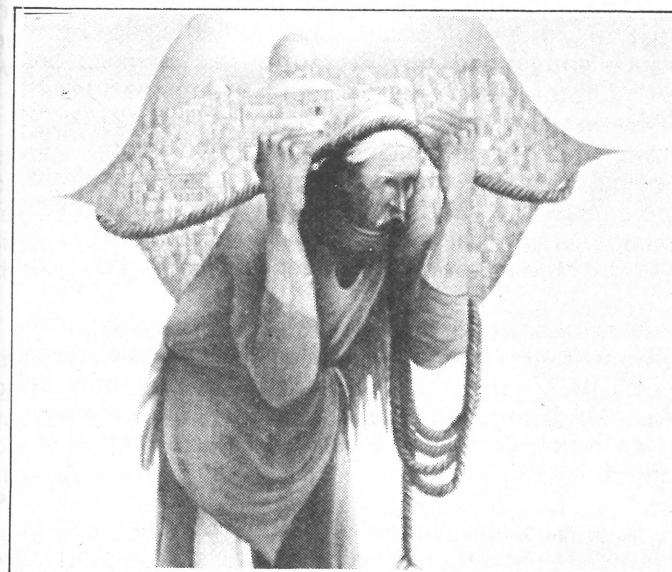


Mustafa al-Hallaj uses historic legends and symbols

The Palestinian Revolution has created an innovative atmosphere. This atmosphere fostered among the Palestinian and the Arab people, expressed itself in literature and fine arts.

Literature and plastic arts have witnessed a broad push forward, since the revolution is an alternative to inaction and silence. Poets and artists, encouraged by the revolution, were inspired to select subjects which expressed the new situation of the Palestinian people. The development of art helped to spread the revolution's message locally and internationally. Many Palestinian artists all over the world contributed to this process.

As the revolution developed, so did its art. The art of the revolution is the fruit of Palestinian, Arab and artists of the world. It has created an opportunity for careers relevant to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people. Thirty years ago Palestinian art was limited to artificial handicraft and drawings of religious icons. After the Zionist entity was established in 1948, Palestinians were dispersed or forced to live under occupation. The artists found themselves in a miserable situation. Ismail Shammout, a pioneer among Palestinian artists, became famous for drawings about the tragedy of dispersion.



Suleiman Mansour's resistance in art to the occupation

While every artist begins his artistic career focusing on speculative drawings of nature, we see that the Palestinian artists focused on expressing their inner tragedy. Until 1960 Palestinian art was mainly realistic like that of Tawfiq Abdul-AI and Ibrahim Hazeemeh. The most prominent style was that of Mustafa Al-Hallaj who used legends and symbols derived from Canaanite and Egyptian art: But Kamal Balata who studied in Italy and now lives in America, concentrated on using Arabic calligraphy and Chinese ink to express the Palestinian human striving for freedom. Later he focussed solely on calligraphy arranged in geometrical forms and plastic colors. Exploration into Palestinian tradition and heritage emerged in different trends, such as the "instinctive art" of Jumana Al-Hussaini.

The birth of the new Palestinian art came with the birth of the Palestinian armed struggle in 1965, especially in the aftermath of the 1967 war. Many Palestinian artists, who studied in Europe, America, Egypt and Baghdad, like Kamal Balata, Mustafa Al-Hallaj, Vladimir Tamari, Abdul Rahman Al-Muzayyin and Samya Al-Halabi began to change their style.

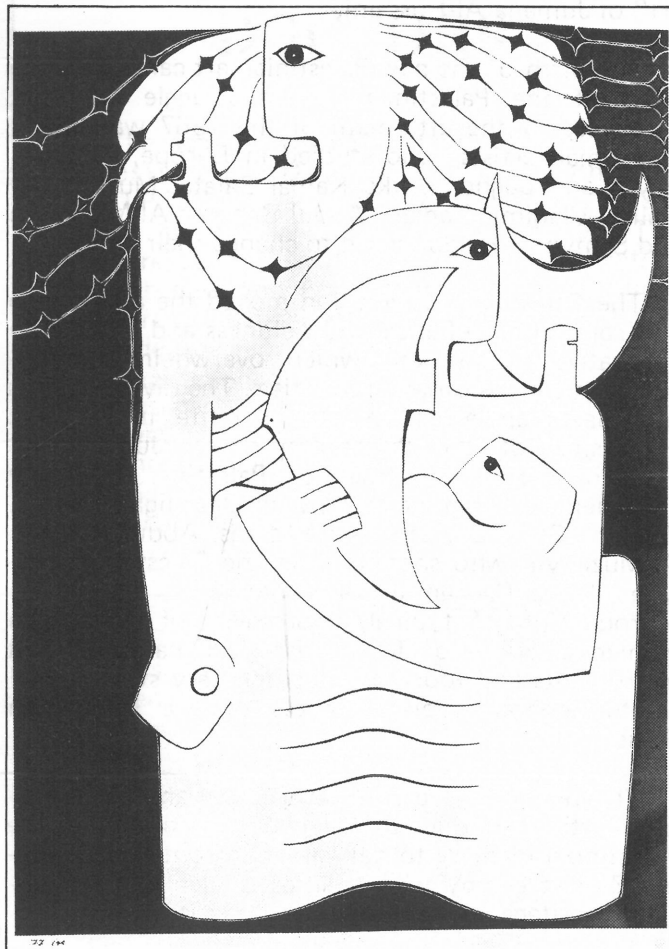
The Palestinian Revolution moved the artists into confrontation, defiance and boldness and created an innovative atmosphere which overwhelmed Palestinian as well as other Arab artists. The diverse trends of Palestinian artists began to unite in an epic expression of the Palestinian cause. Jumana Al-Hussaini draws the cities of Palestine, especially Jerusalem, in a simple style, with clear light colours. Ibrahim Ghannam depicts traditions. Abdul Rahman Al-Muzayyin who specializes in the Palestinian heritage of the Canaanite era, concentrates on precise reproduction of typical embroidery of Palestinian garments. He also draws historical Palestine and instruments and tools in a documentary style as well as the contemporary symbols of the Palestinian Resistance.

The return to the cultural heritage among Palestinian artists is due to their desire to affirm the Palestinian identity to defy and confront the occupying Zionist enemy who falsifies or denies the Palestinian heritage, while proclaiming it as its own.

Palestinian artists are attempting in their work

PALESTINIAN REVOLUTIONARY ART

preserve Palestinian heritage and to recreate it under contemporary conditions. A strong Palestinian-dedicated movement also prevails among the artists of the occupied land. Among the most remarkable of them is Abed Abedy who studied graphic art in the German Democratic Republic. In 1979 he designed a monument commemorating the martyrs of the "Land Day". His style is sharp and expressive using condensed lines and cohesive structures. His drawings



Mona Saudi: "Palestine Land Day"

have been published in magazines in the occupied areas.

Among the younger generation in Palestine, Suleiman Mansour expresses a symbolic reality about the life under occupation. His work, although delicate and pensive in lines and colors, focusses on the struggle of the Palestinians who adore their land to the limits of sacredness and holiness in the face of the Zionist military machine which occupies and destroys the land. The art of Suleiman Mansour and his fellow artists in the occupied territories can be considered agitational art in confronting the Zionist occupation. One example is a statue of freedom in the courtyard of Al Bireh. This monument turned into a gathering place in the town and a symbol against the occupation. The military authorities ordered the removal of this sculpture within 24 hours, and then a bulldozer demolished the statue from its base.

The art of the Palestinian Resistance complements Palestinian armed struggle. This art asserts the comprehensive character of the Palestinian cause as a creative struggle related both to Arab and international dimensions. From the beginning the Palestinian Revolution gave artists freedom to practise diverse artistic methods, and Palestinian art has flourished in this free climate enabling the artist to explore his personal identity via the public identity.

Other Arab artists have also enriched Palestinian art with magnificent works. Among them is the Syrian artist Nader Nabaa who was among the first artists to create posters and paintings about the Palestinian Revolution while Fatah was still a clandestine movement.

The Iraqi artist Al-Ghrawi designed many posters, an epic book about the memories of the Palestinian fighters of "Black September" and paintings of fighters and martyrs.

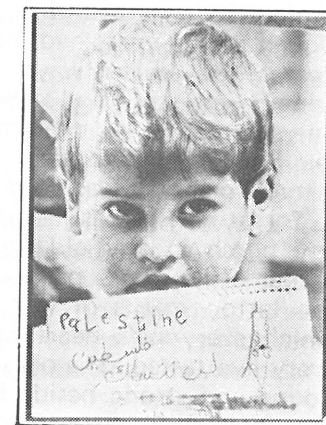
Mona Al-Saudi, the author of this article, is an artist of Jordanian origin. She studied sculpture in France and joined the Revolution at its inception. Her sculptures are symbols representing the idea of generation and land. Her drawings in Chinese ink use strong clear lines which resemble calligraphy. Her subjects combine human forms, guns and plants. Three years ago she founded the Plastic Arts Section which makes local and international exhibitions of the art of the Palestinian Resistance.

Palestinian artists share the same critical environment with the rest of the Palestinian people. Some artists live under the Zionist occupation, some are dispersed throughout the Arab world and some even all over the world like in Japan, Latin America and Europe.

This situation hinders the growth of an artistic movement. So, the Palestinian artists naturally are struggling, and expressing the need, for the return to their homeland Palestine.

DRAWINGS BY PALESTINIAN CHILDREN:

A BRIGHT TESTIMONY ON PALESTINE



A new collection of children's drawings was published recently, by the Palestinian Plastic Art Section, including 18 different drawings size 35X50 cm.

The drawings of the Palestinian children are not simply drawings sketched by children intent upon gaining a new skill, the memory of a Palestinian is a collective one of a whole people shouldering a cause and it begins to grow while he is still in an embryonic state. That is why the drawings of these children represent the innocent and truthful expression which strikes us like lightning due to their ability to deeply explain the struggle, sufferings and hopes of the Palestinian people.

These beautiful and sharp drawings carry in their rich colors and in their forms the deep love and attachment to the occupied land, Palestine, and the will to continue the struggle until victory.

Mustapha Hussein, an 11-year-old Palestinian boy explained the meaning of the different, most used colors: "Red means Revolution. Green means our fertile, generous country. Yellow means the desert, since the Palestinian people has been expelled from their towns and villages."

Themes and forms of these drawings spread from the daily life of the Palestinian people and give a true picture of the harsh and difficult circumstances in which these children live. These drawings express the pain and sorrow of the children as well as their will to struggle for the liberation of their beloved homeland, Palestine. A common figure in these drawings, is the figure of the "fedayeen", which represents the only way of facing the enemy in their imagination, and shows their respect and readiness to fight on their

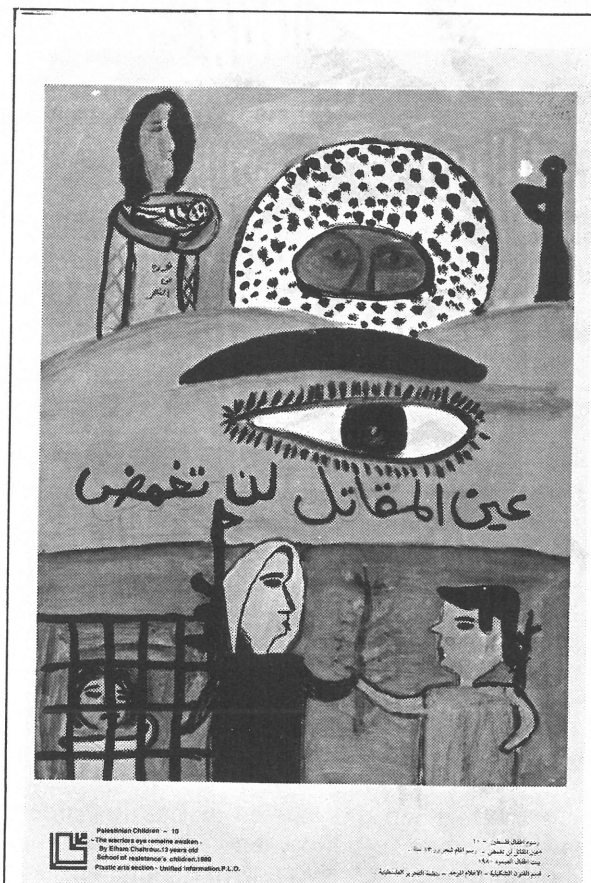
side. One boy expressed his wish: "I always dream of fedayeen carrying out missions with me and my brother accompanying them."

Their drawings take shape, telling the tragedy in bright colors. They show their experience with all the density of its full reality, which reality merged with dreams and innocence and is transformed in the drawings into symbols and signs: tanks, planes, the commando, the peaceful homes in a green village in Palestine when the country still possessed its people — snakes which represent the hated enemy, against which they have to struggle until victory in order to be able to return to their homeland.

The Palestinian Revolution pay a great of attention to the education of children. Thus, they are the generation which can be considered the generation of victory. The attention is focused on their artistic creativity to express in their drawings their capability and will which contributes to the crystallization of the revolutionary consciousness of children.

The drawings of the Palestinian children form a historical documentary on the life and cause of the Palestinian people and this is a bright testimony for the Palestinian era.

This collection can be ordered from Plastic Art Section; POB 14/5203 Beirut — for 10\$ including post cost.



"The warrior's eyes remain awaken", by Ilham Chahrour, 13 years old



"PALESTINE" SHORT STORY

by Tawfiq Fayyad

Her face was round and wheat-coloured, and the plough of the years had not made a furrow in it. Her clear white scarf always slid down her silver hair, bringing the structure of her gentle face together in a fine symmetry, and then resting on her shoulders like the base of an eternally contemplating head on a statue, so that it was hard for anyone who knew her to forget her. It was just like the head of a statue on any porch in any old house in the village, or any corner of its alleys, particularly in the vernal smile in the tattoo marks of her dimpled cheeks, the smile which everyone's heart knew and whose sweetness every eye tasted. The old men of the village remained young and strong beside her, and the younger ones remained children, not growing up in her memory. Time stood still with her, and did not move onward after her.

She was called the "Mother of Goodness". This was how I and all the children in the village knew her, for everything she had was ours, all the things which children love, even her anger. If the smile of her benevolent hand passed over a sick person's brow he was cured, and if she placed her hand on a mischievous child's head, he would nestle in her lap like a young pigeon, when our mothers used to take us to her to bless us.

In the days and harsh nights of winter, when our fathers could not go to meet the soil and our ancestors, our good soil and the news of it would move to the house of the Mother of Goodness, and she would meet them there around her fire. In spite of the narrowness of its arches, the house of the Mother of Goodness encompassed all the land and hills of the village. When its love grew around her warmth, its arches widened and widened until they encompassed all our country, its summer, autumn, winter and spring, a girl whose youthfulness was renewed, just like the Mother of Goodness night after night and day after day.

The days passed and the goodness of the Mother of Goodness increased, her love grew greater and greater, and people's love for her grew larger with it, particularly the love of Hassan the ploughman, who had spent his life in her service since her father had employed him to cultivate his land during his youth, when the Mother of Goodness was still a pretty young girl. He loved her as he loved the earth, until people sang of his love for her, even after she married someone else and bore him an only son. Then the years passed over her and him, and he still felt his old silent love for her, after swearing to himself that he

"THE MOTHER OF GOODNESS"

would love none but her, until he became an old man and still a bachelor. This made people, among themselves, call him the ascetic, because he was absent from their gatherings and distracted from them by the soil alone for all those long years. If anyone mentioned him, he lowered his voice humbly, particularly in the presence of the Mother of Goodness who avoided mentioning him and lowered her head to an old lover who loved her. As for him, nobody dared mention her in front of him except those shepherds who, while driving their sheep, repeated songs naturally about his love which they passed on as they went past him when he was behind his oxen.

Thus the days passed over our village, and nobody in the whole village knew that a disaster was awaiting the Mother of Goodness to befall her one day, although they knew that the snake which killed her husband when she was a young woman was still living in the arches of the house. But it had not appeared since that time, so they came to think it was lying dead after emptying all its poison into his heel, owing to its old age. Many years before killing the husband of the Mother of Goodness, it had killed his grandfather's oxen in the courtyard of the house and destroyed all the pairs of pigeons in the dovecot. Thus it continued to move on from one place to another around the large house until it settled between the beams of the roof. The Mother of Goodness used to warn her companions that she had begun to hear its rustling like the rustling of a hen nestling eggs whenever summer approached. However, all the old men stressed to her that this rustling she heard was only the rattling in its throat on its approach to death, and they told various stories of the life of an old lady they had met in their long lives or had heard from someone else, all of which confirmed that the death rattle of an elderly snake is similar to the rustling of chickens on eggs, and that it cannot make the effort to leave its resting place until it dies. They never stopped telling such stories until one of them would curse the snake's behaviour which, if it was mentioned in a conversation, would make it interminable. But the Mother of Goodness was not consoled by their stories and told them that she wanted to destroy the roof and rebuild it, adding:

"Look men, the intuition of the Mother of Goodness is not wrong. All day long the sparrows circle above the roof and their wings do not rest, and the swallows have left their nests in the arches and flown away."

On a sultry June night, the Mother of Goodness sat down with her son and grandchildren to dinner. Although she noticed bubbles floating on the surface of the bowl of yoghurt hanging in the corner of the western arch, she thought that was because of the fierce heat. But they had scarcely finished eating their dinner when the poison destroyed them all, except the Mother of Goodness, whom her friends found unconscious with swollen limbs.

* * *

The malevolent poison left its sickness in the body of the Mother of Goodness, although the old men used all the medicine they knew to cure her until she became like a skeleton lying in bed, unable to leave it. Her gatherings dwindled day by day, except for some old women who looked after her. As for us little ones, none of us dared even to come near the door of her house. Sorrow for her and fear of her brought us together at the curve of the lane leading to her house, furtively evading our mothers, waiting for an old lady to emerge from her house to ask her what news there was of her, whether her face still looked frightening and whether she still ate children with her long, dirty fangs, as our mothers told us.

The sickness in her body turned into festering sores which began to spread over her body, until no one dared to come near her bed, even the old women who looked after her for fear of catching the sickness, after the rumour had spread in the village that the sores were contagious and that one of the old women had in fact been infected by them and started running around unconscious in the village lanes tearing at her flesh with her fingernails.

Terror gripped all the people of the village, and some of them began lighting fires in their houses in spite of the June heat, believing it would prevent the sickness from creeping into their homes, and awaiting her death. Some of them fled with their families to the olive groves on the hills opposite to reside there, while others followed them day after day, despairing that she could be cured.

The Mother of Goodness sensed the gradual emptying of the village around her and her bulging eyes fixed on Hassan's eyes. His old love had returned, and so he went to her to be the last one to look after her. She looked at him one evening, her eternal smile hanging over the sores of her cheeks and fluttering on her trembling lips.



"The people seem to have evacuated the village, Hassan?"

Hassan smiled at her sympathetically. "As long as Hassan is beside you, Khadra, nobody has left it."

"Death is hard for me, Hassan, when the people of whom my heart is fond are far away from me. Do you think I'll live, Hassan, and see them around me again?"

"Don't worry, Khadra, don't worry. Job died and got better."

After hardship, relief comes. God is great! "

The Mother of Goodness raised her little finger. "God be praised! God be praised for His gifts, His wisdom! "

"He deserves to be praised for the good and the bad, the distress and the comfort."

Their gaze embraced for a long time, and with each glance two quiet tears embraced.

"You seem to love me, Hassan?"

"As long as He who gave love to me lives,."

"But Hassan, your skin has become like leather, the seasons of your plough fertilising have ripened and there is nobody left in this country to sing the song of his sickle."

"Whatever comes from you is good, Khadra, and whatever gives you comfort gives me comfort."

"By God, Hassan, there is no longer any comfort. Two or three days, Hassan, and..."

Smiles covered sores but the sores on her lips silenced them.

"Come on, Mother of Goodness, my commitment to you stays firm and strong against hardship. Storms come and go, and the oaks of our hills stand as straight as brides. And the olive tree of our country, Mother of Goodness, gives its harvest in plenty in the autumn and its oil overflows our jars. And in the months of hardship, our flocks fill the enclosures of our houses with lambs. As the hills of our country milk the clouds of its skies and filling the jars of the Mother of Goodness with water, as long as the Mother of Goodness is alive and give people water to drink, never mind the sores which disgusted people.

They will become beauty spots on her cheeks, whose attractiveness will dazzle people."

Thus Hassan continued to comfort her with his presence, in spite of that sore which spread in his body also, and which he treated himself with the herbs and dried roots he brought from the hills.

One morning, the Mother of Goodness awoke from her stupor and searched for him with her eyes. But he had gone out to the mountains since dawn and not returned. The village was like barren jars all around. There was no lowing of a bull or even the barking of a dog to be heard. She began groaning loudly so that anyone outside the house would hear her. She had been certain she would die when she woke up this time, and it was hard for her to close her eyes without seeing her old lover.

The awareness of death aroused her old strength in her, and she went crawling outside the door of her house to that of the large house. Then she continued crawling weakly in the village lanes, until her searching gaze reached the olive groves, from whose midst the barking of dogs came to her ears and the columns of smoke rising up from the stoves of those who had evacuated there appeared before her eyes. She stood up, straightening her sore-covered body, two tears hovering on the edges of her last smile, after Hassan appeared on the road.

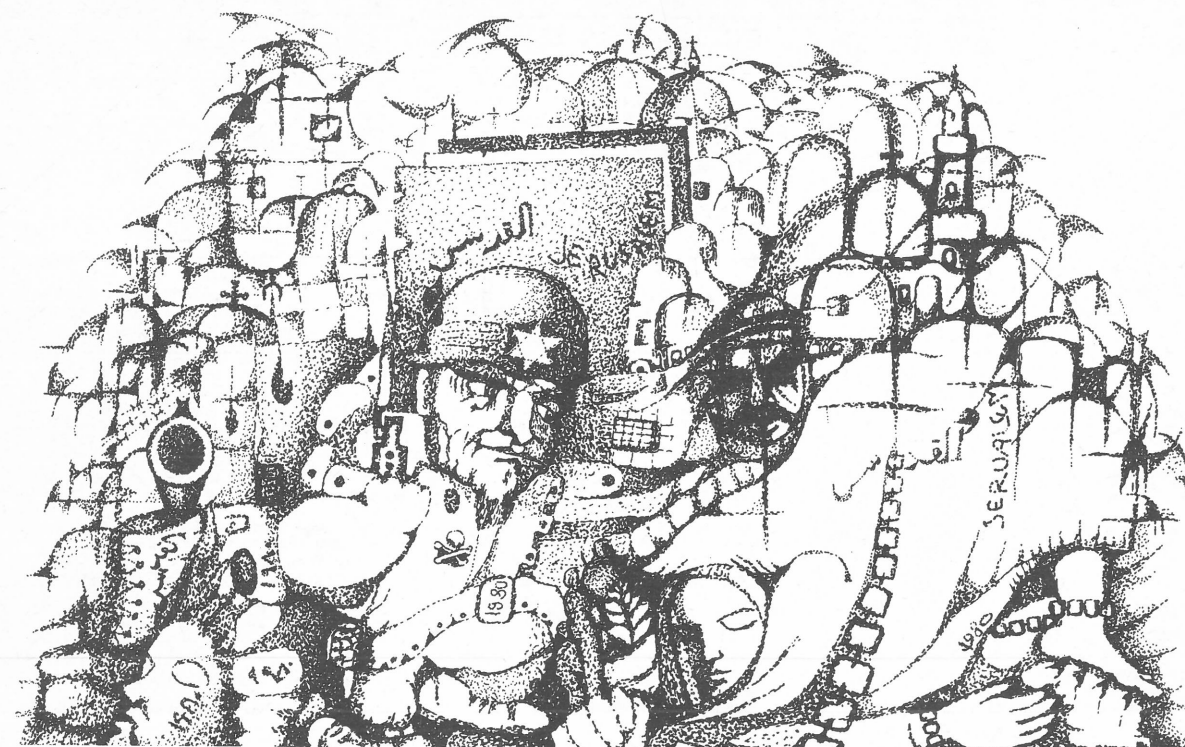
Her smile was the last to shine from her face, when Hassan stood before her dazed. Her body had begun to change into the trunk of an old dessicated tree. He clapped one hand against another in regret.

"Oh God, for your old days, Mother of Goodness! Even death had been powerless before you! "

Her smile moaned, and Hassan knelt against the old tree-trunk, letting it drink from the bleeding sores which she embraced. On the morning of the next day, two green buds sprouted where the sores had been on her dimples. They began to grow and branch out day after day, and every morning two tears fell from their edges onto Hassan whom she had seated beneath her, and every morning two sores were healed.

As for us little ones, we no longer saw Hassan the ploughman on the road to the hills where we used to meet him to learn the news of the Mother of Goodness from him. As we grew up, so that tree far away grew up, which grew in our village, until its green branches came to embrace the whole village.

Graphic by A.L. Muhanna



ABU SALMA:

AFTER SEPARATION

*Ask me not, for I won't bear to answer,
How I lament the Motherland, and the loved ones,
Everytime I discern lightning from Palestine in
the distance,
My heart breaks, and my spirit melts.*

*We left like sea waves over the plains,
And we dispersed like clouds in the sky,
And in our love and longing for you, O Palestine,
We have borne misery and torture.*

*And if you ask us where we belong,
We have but one answer: to thee alone!
And our separation from thy soil,
Brings us only closer to thy soil!*

*We've planted our longing in everyland,
So it might grow into arrows and lances,
And we separated—yet, thou liveth in our hearts,
For years, for decades, of humiliation
and dispersion.*

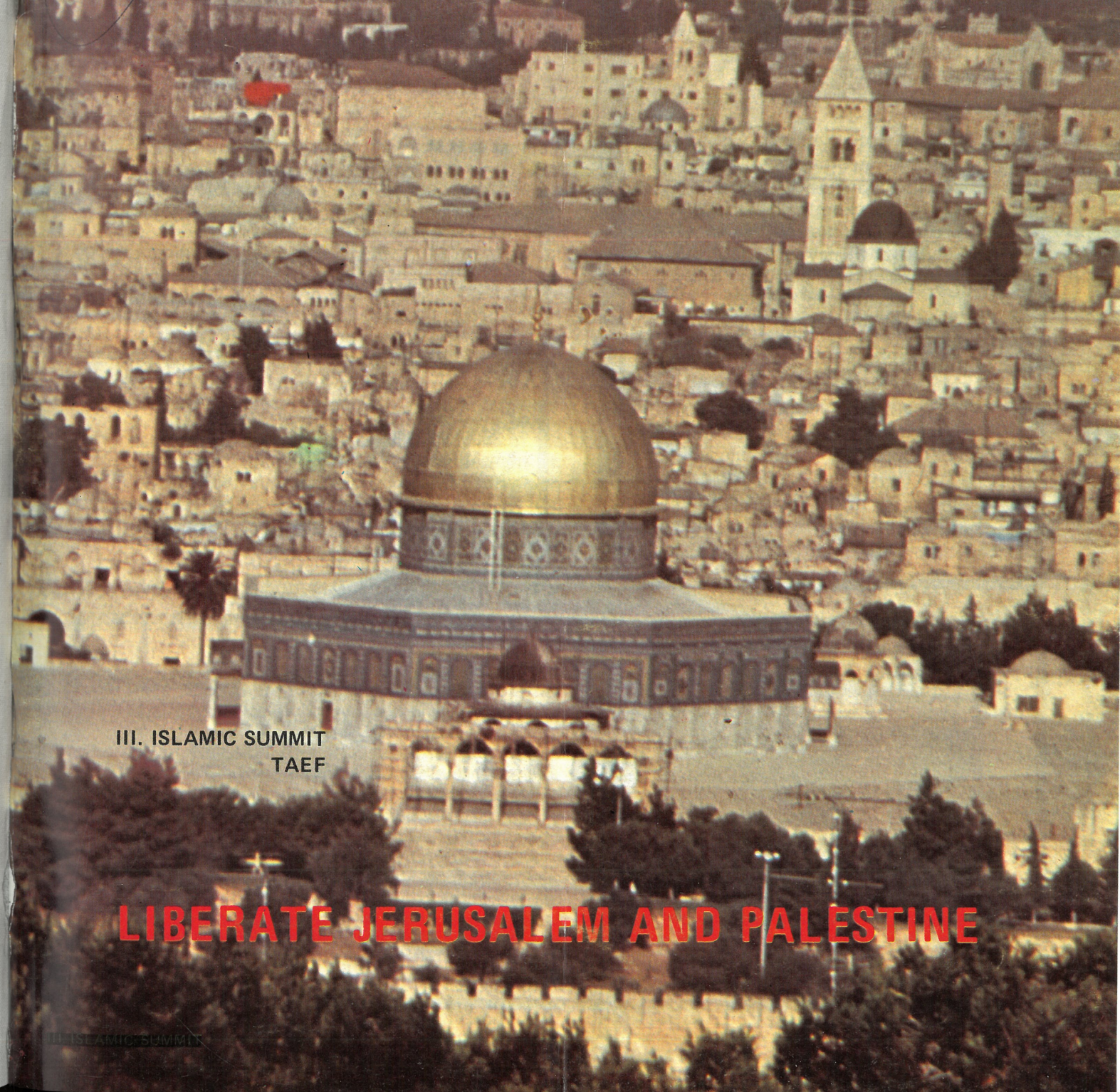
*But, we shall meet again in thy playgrounds,
Some, grayed by age, some still young,
And we shall kneel and kiss thy rocks,
Thy sands, thy pebbles, and thy soil.*



Palestine

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III. ISLAMIC SUMMIT
TAEF

LIBERATE JERUSALEM AND PALESTINE